



Tuesday 31st August 2021.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re: Autumn Term 2021

Firstly, I hope that you are all well and have enjoyed a rest over the summer? I trust that you managed to catch a bit of the sunshine when it was around and have enjoyed relaxation time with your families?

I write to inform you of our arrangements for returning to school following the latest guidance issued by the DFE regarding keeping safe in school on 17th August 2021. As you are aware, most restrictions have been removed but please read our information below so that you are clear of our plans.

Return to school

Wednesday 1st September: Inset (Training day) for all staff. No children in school but the office is open between 9.00-3.00pm for uniform sales or 'click and collect'

Thursday 2nd September: All children from Y1-Y6 return to school. Reception children will have been given their start date by their teachers and will be starting between Thursday 2nd and Wednesday 7th September

Week beginning 6th September: Existing Nursery children return to school – teachers will have told individual parents of new children the start date for their child

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all children to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we'll be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

Illness

As usual, if your child is ill, we ask that you telephone or email the school office before 9.00am on each day of absence.

Coronavirus symptoms

If your child has any of the three key symptoms of coronavirus, we ask that they take a PCR test. If they are positive, they should remain at home for at least 10 full days and after 10 days they should not return to school until they feel better. If they test negative and feel well, they may return to school. Family members who are double vaccinated or those who are 18 years old or younger no longer have to self-isolate.

Start and finish times for each year group

As I stated at the end of last term, we are going to continue with our staggered starts to the day and entry through different gates as we have found that it is a quieter and calmer start to the day for the children and the teachers

Whilst we no longer have to keep a 2 metre distance or wear masks, you may of course continue to do so if you prefer to.

Our timings and entry points are:

Year group	Start time	Finish time	Gate for entry	Gate for exit
6	8.50am	3.05pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' Gate
5	8.50am	3.05pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' gate
4	9.00am	3.15pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' gate
3	9.00am	3.15pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' gate
2	9.00am	3.15pm	Entrance in Gorham Place	Nearest exit (KS2 playground or Nursery)
1	9.00am	3.15pm	Entrance in Gorham Place	Nearest exit (KS2 playground or Nursery)
Reception	9.00am	3.00pm	Nursery entrance	Exit in Nursery Playground
Nursery	9.00am	3.00pm	Nursery Entrance	Exit in Nursery Playground

Drop-off and pick-up.

As has been the case since 1st June 2020, there will be one gate on Sirdar Road KS2 playground clearly marked 'Entrance' (the one where I usually stand) and the other gate marked 'Exit' (the one where Peter usually stands). Similarly, for Reception and Nursery children, the Nursery gate will be the 'Entrance' and the fire gate will be opened at key times for 'Exit'.

Y1 and Y2 children will again enter through the gate on Gorham Place next to the fire gates, this will not be an exit gate at the end of the day. Y1 and Y2 parents should leave by the nearest exit gate (either Nursery if you are leaving immediately or KS2 exit gate if you have to go to the other playground to collect an older child.)

We ask that parents keep their younger children close to them at pick-up and I remind you that no one is allowed to cycle or 'scoot' or play any ball games before or after school.

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child arrives on time in order that he or she does not miss out on learning. If in exceptional circumstances they are late, they should enter school through the hall door in order that they see Michael and receive a 'late card'.

Hand washing and sanitising

Children and adults in school will continue to wash hands and sanitise regularly:

- when they arrive in school
- entry to different rooms – e.g., computer suite, music room
- after going to the toilet
- after each playtime
- before and after lunch
- after playing with any balls/PE equipment

Coughs and sneezes

- All staff will remind pupils to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it posters displayed around the school

Social distancing

- Children no longer need to be in class 'bubbles' in class or at lunchtime or in the playground
- Whilst we no longer need to have staggered playtimes, we will continue to do so for Key Stage 2 for morning play as children have more space for play.
- There will no longer be a need for year group bubbles at lunchtimes so all children will be able to have a hot lunch in the Dining Hall. Lunchtime playtimes will therefore not be staggered.
- All children will be in their usual playgrounds for lunchtime playtimes. The key Stage 2 playground will be divided into two with UKS 2 (Y5 and Y6) in one half and LKS2 (Y3 and Y4) in the other half. This will be for organizational reasons rather than Covid restrictions.
- Children and adults in school will not generally be wearing masks except in specific situations when administering first aid or looking after children who are ill
- Children will be able to share resources across the school
- There will continue to be systems in place to monitor and limit number of children going to the toilet at any time. Clear guidelines will be shared with pupils

Uniform and belongings.

Water bottles

We ask that all children bring in a named water bottle as water fountains in the playgrounds will remain out of use.

School bags

Children will be allowed to bring their named school bag containing a bottle of water, home learning/ reading book and a coat. **No other belongings from home should be brought into school.**

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear full uniform which is named – including correct school shoes and full PE kit with trainers when they have a PE lesson.

As stated in July, we are unable this year to provide parents with a free jumper (due to reductions in funding) but instead, the Governors have agreed to reduce the cost of the school jumpers until the October Half Term. Jumpers and other uniform will be available to buy from the school office on the following dates:

- Tuesday 31st August 9.00am-2.00pm
- Wednesday 1st September 9.00am-3.00pm

NB, the usual office hours in term time are 8.30am-4.30pm

NB School uniform is available to purchase on-line for a 'click and collect' service via ParentMail App and every day in term time between 9.30am and 4.15pm

PE Kit

Children from R-Y6 should continue to wear their full PE kit to school (and a school jumper over the top) and trainers on the day they have PE and they do not need to bring their school uniform with them. We have found that doing this reduces the amount of lost property and also saves valuable time in our school day for changing.

Lunches

As stated previously, a hot lunch will be available this year for all children every day.

Water

Children should bring a labelled bottle of water each day as the water fountains will remain not in use (due to spread of infection)

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be available for children from Nursery-Y6 from 7.50am. If you are interested in your child attending, please enquire at the school office as soon as possible as places are limited.

Extended Club

Extended Club will be available each day starting on Thursday 2nd September from 3.15-5.45pm please book a place for your child via ParentMail.

After- school clubs

There will be a programme of after-school clubs for Y1-Y6 children which will start W/B 13th September. A separate letter will be sent to parents re the club timetable and we will be asking you to book them on the ParentMail app.

Class trips

There will be no school trips which require public transport in the Autumn Term, but this will be reviewed for the Spring Term. There will be trips within walking distance and there will also be visiting workshops to the school. For any trips that do take place, a risk assessment will be undertaken and necessary precautions related to Covid-19 will be adhered to. This will be reviewed later in the term.

Swimming.

There will be swimming for Y3 and Y4 and again separate arrangements will be sent to parents of these year groups explaining the procedures for this.

Assemblies/ Performances.

- We will hold school assemblies in person (rather than via Zoom) for the children in Key Stage Groups
- We will hold class assemblies in person with parents sitting in a well ventilated hall
- We will be unable to hold Christmas Concerts this year exactly in the format we have previously, but will make firmer decisions and update parents nearer to the time

Visitors to school

- We will be allowing a limited number of visitors to school but anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 will not be permitted on the premises.
- Parents wishing to meet with teachers should make an appointment and we will arrange a ventilated space to meet at a time suitable to both parties
- Parents Evenings: At the time of writing, we hope to hold parent/ teacher consultations (Parents evenings) in the Autumn Term, but this will be reviewed at Half Term
- There will be a limited number of parents' workshops and information-sharing meetings– more information will be shared ASAP

School Office

- School office is open daily from 2nd September - 8.30-4.30
- There is a limit of 4 visitors in the school office at any one time and anyone waiting is asked to queue outside

Risk Assessment

We have completed a risk assessment which will be approved by the governors and RBKC and will be available on the website for parents to read.

What will the curriculum be like in September?

- There will be adaptations to the curriculum to support the gaps in learning due to school closures, but otherwise, the curriculum will be as stated on the school website. We will be doing our best to continue to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum.

What will happen in terms of the curriculum if the school has to send a year group home to self-isolate or if a local or national lockdown is imposed?

- Although there is no expectation that year groups will be sent home, schools still need to have prepared a contingency curriculum for children – a mixture of hard copies of learning and online learning. More information would be given if this is required.

Travel to school

If you travel by public transport to school, you are still required to wear a mask and remain socially distanced if possible.

Thank you

Thank you for the support that you have shown over the past 18 months in relation to the plans we have put in place to manage our arrangements. Although we will be explaining everything very carefully to all year groups, it would be helpful to us if you can discuss the contents of this letter with your child prior to the start of term in September so that they are as prepared as possible.

We look forward to seeing most of you on the 2nd September, (and Nursery week beginning 6th September) but if you have any questions, please email them to us at the usual address. We will obviously continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to updated government advice.

Best wishes,

Katy Blackler

Katy Blackler

Headteacher