



August 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and enjoying some quality time with your families. It is nice to have more flexibility in what you can do, unlike recent months.

I would like to start by offering our deepest condolences to the family of Matthew Sherrington, a former pupil, who tragically lost his life recently. Matthew was a lovely, well-liked young man who will be remembered by everyone in our school community. Our thoughts are with his family at this extremely difficult time. I am going to be working with members of the extended family in the coming weeks to look at how we can get water safety into schools. I will update you of any developments with this.

As promised, I have included below some key information for your child's return to school in September.

Although the updated guidance we have received is very positive in terms of our children and school community returning to some sort of normality, I want to reassure you that we are treading with caution initially and measures may have to be reviewed and adapted at short notice in the event of a school or local area outbreak. I am sure you will agree the safety of everyone in our school community is paramount. We have come this far and can see a glimmer of light.

Start and Times

Whilst we are making other changes, we have decided to stick with the staggered start and finish times for different classes. This is to minimise number of children and parents who will be on the school yard. I realise that this does mean some parents have to wait but it has been successful in helping the flow of both parents coming in and leaving the yard as well as the children lining up ready to go into school. We will review this at October half-term. Below are the time slots for your child's class:

| Class | Start Time | Finish Time | Door |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Butterflies | 9:00am 12:30pm | 12:00pm 3:30pm | Nursery Main Entrance |
| Bluebells | 8:45am 12:15pm | 11:45am 3:15pm | Side door to the Nursery classroom |
| Fireflies | 9:00am | 3:00pm | Door 1 on the Reception yard |
| Dragonflies | 9:00am | 3:00pm | Door 2 on the main yard |
| Class 1L | 8:50am | 2:50pm | Door 3 - main school yard |
| Class 1H | 8:50am | 2:50pm | Door 3 - main school yard |
| Class 2S | 9:00am | 3:00pm | Door 3 - main school yard |
| Class 3L | 8:50am | 2:50pm | Door 4 - main school yard |
| Class 3S | 9:00am | 3:00pm | Door 5 - main school yard |
| Class 4L | 9:00am | 3:00pm | Door 6 - main school yard |
| Class 5H | 8:50am | 2:50pm | Door 6 - main school yard |
| Class 5E | 8:50am | 2:50pm | Door 5 - main school yard |
| Class 6I | 9:00am | 3:00pm | Door 4 - main school yard |
| Class 6G | 9:00am | 3:00pm | Door 4 - main school yard |

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer compulsory on the school yard from September. However, please feel free to wear them if you prefer to help protect yourselves and each other.

Bubbles

Children are no longer required to remain in their bubbles. Therefore, assemblies and break times can take place with more than one bubble mixing. It may be necessary to reintroduce bubbles at short notice and the school has a contingency plan in place for this.

Self-Isolation

I am sure you will be pleased to hear that as of Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 are not required to self-isolate if they have come into contact with someone with COVID-19. Therefore, we hope we have seen the end of full bubble closures!

However, if your child is showing any COVID-19 symptoms we must stress the importance of keeping them off school and getting a PCR test for them at the earliest opportunity.

If a member of your household tests positive, all members of that household can get a PCR test whether they have symptoms or not. By doing this, you are helping protect others in the school community.

Testing

School staff will continue to self-test twice a week from home to help prevent the spread of infection, particularly for asymptomatic people.

Remote Education

If your child is required to isolate because they test positive, the school will provide remote learning during this period. Please do not worry if your child is too poorly to complete the work.

PE Kit

Children can continue to come to school in their PE kit on PE days. Please can I remind parents that we do have a PE uniform which consists of: a purple T-Shirt and black shorts/leggings. A black or grey hoodie can also be worn outside. Your child's class teacher will inform you of the PE days for your child.

Meetings with Staff

As always, staff are available to speak to for a quick message on the school yard. If you need to speak with myself or your child's class teacher for a longer period of time, please contact the school office to make an appointment. We will endeavour to make this as quickly as we possibly can.

Bringing things into School

Children may bring a bag into school with their reading book, water bottle etc. However, children must not bring any toys into school from home. If your child brings any toys into school, they will be taken off them until the end of the school day.

Head Teacher Update

Due to the resignation of Mrs Clark, it has been necessary to make some changes in school.

From September, Mrs Newton, who has added leadership capacity to the school since Mrs Clark's absence, will return to her school in Sedgefield full time. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Newton for the hard work and dedication she has shown our school in the past 9 months to help us to improve further.

Therefore, we will be joined by Mr Hornsby from Rosa Street Primary School in September who will act as Deputy Head Teacher until December 2021. We look forward to welcoming Mr Hornsby.

The post of Head Teacher for our school will be advertised this term. I will continue to be Acting Head Teacher until the position has been filled. I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support throughout this change.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office if you have any queries. My door is always open and if I am not available immediately, I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Remember, all children return to school on **Monday 6th September**. Staff have been very busy preparing classrooms and resources for them over the holidays.

In the meantime, enjoy the last few weeks of the holidays with your children and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs R. Leonard
Acting Head Teacher