



Robins Lane

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 27th August 2020

Dear parents and carers,

A reminder of our guidance for reopening next week

Firstly, I hope you, your families and your friends are safe and well. I hope the summer holidays have treated you kindly and that the (mostly) fantastic weather provided some much-needed time outdoors.

Ahead of our planned reopening next Thursday, I thought it would be helpful to recirculate the guidance we sent out at the end of last term (see below). Whilst there are some minor additions (which are highlighted in yellow), please do take the time to read/re-read all the information thoroughly. Nursery and Reception parents, please take note of the new pick-up time.

We appreciate that our guidance may not cover every question you may have so, if you still have any queries or concerns after reading this information, please email the school office. You can also let us know within the school online questionnaire (sent earlier today) or phone after 12pm on INSET day – Wednesday 2nd September.

Finally, we understand that our new systems are not what you have been used to and may not be ideal. However, we ask for your support, understanding and patience whilst we do our best to safely welcome back all our children for the first time in five months.

We look forward to seeing you!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Spruce

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Aim High, Fly High

Wellbeing

First and foremost, your child's safety and wellbeing are our prime concern. We understand that children will have had a range of different experiences during lockdown. To help support your child's return, we have sent out a 'return to school online questionnaire'. This is optional but will give all families an opportunity to let us know how your child has coped and how we can help the reintroduction. **We will also have additional wellbeing lessons in all classes to support the transition back to school.**

Attendance

From September, it will once again be a legal requirement for your child to attend school. If you still have any concerns about your child returning to school, please tell us in the school online questionnaire. We would welcome the opportunity to share our safety procedures further and allay any fears.

Behaviour expectations

We ask that you speak with your child about how we can sensibly behave in this new, socially-distancing environment. Our behaviour policy has been updated with a 'Behaviour Addendum' document to reflect new behaviours linked to the virus. This is now on our website. Please encourage your child to follow school systems on keeping each other happy and safe, being clean and being hygienic.

School day timings

When we return, our normal start and end times will be in operation for all classes (8:45am – 3:15pm). **To help reduce congestion near our Nursery/Reception entrance, we will ask parents, in these classes only, to collect from 3:05pm. This will be reviewed on Friday 11th and may then be made compulsory.**

Drop-off and pick-up arrangements

We will reintroduce our early door opening from 8:30am – 8:45am to reduce congestion in the mornings. To further reduce congestion, if your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, and you walk to school, please use our smaller entrance near the traffic lights on Robins Lane.

Year 5 and 6 children are once again allowed to walk home with written consent. Be reminded, children cannot be collected by family under the age of 16 **(except for Year 5 and 6s with walk home consent).**

We ask that parents do not stand around on the playground or car park and leave the premises as soon as they can. We also ask that you are not too early or late when arriving at school. Only one parent or carer can drop off or collect. (We will make exceptions for Nursery and Reception parents during their child's first full week in school.)

To reduce congestion, we will be using additional entrance doors for drop-off and pick-up. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will use their normal classroom door. Year 2 will use the canteen door. Year 3 and 4 will use the junior cloakroom door. Year 5 will now use the old nursery canopy and Year 6 will now use the after-school club door. Please note that this will be reviewed by the end of September.

We have also added social distancing floor markings, queueing, one-way and/or give-way systems near some doors and gates. **We will send a separate letter with images of our door systems by Monday 31st.**

Cleanliness

We have increased our cleaning routines at school. Your children will see more of our caretaker, Mr Edwards, who will be going around school throughout the day to clean frequently used surfaces. Our staff will regularly reinforce the importance of good hygiene and children will be asked to regularly wash their hands throughout the day. We will have hand sanitisers at all entrances which children, and visitors, must use when they enter in a morning.

Uniform and clothing

In September, your child will be expected to wear our normal full uniform as outlined in our policy (this includes our PE kit). If your child is in Nursery or Reception, please wear Velcro shoes if possible.

Lunches and snacks

At least in September, children will eat their lunch in their classroom. Please note that school lunches will initially be in the form of packed lunches. You may also provide your own packed lunch if you wish. In September, we will not be selling snacks at break-times. You can still send in your own healthy snacks from home and we encourage you to do so. Free snacks in Nursery/Reception will still be provided.

Book bags/ruck sacks and other belongings

You may bring in essential items only. This includes items such as: coats, PE kits, book bags, lunch boxes and, if your child walks home alone, a mobile phone. Your child must not bring any soft toys from home.

Face masks and protective gloves

Please do not send your child to school wearing a face mask or protective gloves. Current government guidance **for primary schools** is that children must not come to school with a face mask. If this happens, guidance is for the mask to be removed before entering school. We are following this guidance.

Group/class sizes

The guidance has now changed to allow larger group sizes from September. Full classes of children are now allowed in the same classroom. We can also combine classes into larger 'bubble groups' for certain parts of the day, such as break and lunchtimes as well as specialist teaching. At break and lunchtimes, we will group the classes into larger 'bubble groups' whom will play in their own dedicated 'zones'. The groups, and zones, will be: Nursery with Reception (in the Early Years play areas); Year 1 with Year 2 (in the MUGA); Year 3 with Year 4 (on near side of main playground) and Year 5 with Year 6 (on far side of main playground).

Hygiene and social distancing in classrooms

The guidance has now changed, allowing children to sit next to each other in class. Except for Nursery and Reception, tables will now be arranged in rows. As much as possible, children will still be asked to socially distance from each other and contact with other 'bubble groups' will be kept to a minimum.

Children will be regularly taught, and reminded, how to observe good respiratory hygiene (eg 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it'). There will be additional bins, tissues and hand wash/sanitiser in all classes. Where appropriate, children will be given their own pencil case of resources that will not need to be shared to avoid unnecessary contact. Any specialised equipment that is shared across the school (such as art, science or PE equipment) will be cleaned thoroughly and/or quarantined between each use.

Social distancing: The school office and school staff

To protect our office staff, our front office will remain closed for face-to-face queries and unannounced visits. Please do not come to the front office in person unless by prior appointment. The admin team are still on hand to help you over the phone and will be happy to do so.

Our teaching staff are also happy to help in any way they can. However, to help protect them, we have placed floor markings around our entry points. Please do not step across these floor markings and maintain your distance if you need to speak to staff. If you have a longer query/require a face-to-face meeting with your child's class teacher, this must be by appointment only.

If someone shows symptoms

We ask for your full support in monitoring symptoms at home. If your child, or anyone in your household, displays any of the known symptoms at home (continuous new cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell), please do not come to school and follow national self-isolation guidelines. You must also arrange for the symptomatic person to be tested and inform school of the result.

If your child begins to show symptoms at school, we will call you immediately and ask that you collect them. They will then safely wait for you in another room. If the symptoms are severe, we will follow our normal first-aid procedures and contact the emergency services.

If there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus in your child's 'bubble group', you may be asked to isolate your child in line with national guidelines. If there are several confirmed cases, school may be temporarily closed to carry out a deep clean of all necessary areas. Public Health England will be immediately informed in such an event and all their advice will be followed.

Extremely clinically vulnerable category

Shielding for those classed as 'extremely critically vulnerable' was officially 'paused' from August. If you are still concerned, we would advise you to discuss these concerns with your doctor.