
















Starting back to school Friday September 4th 2020 – September Update

Just a quick final update before we return to school on Friday 4th September. We have been planning throughout the summer and sifting through the ever-changing guidance but are confident that we have everything in place for a safe return this week. Nobody really knows how things will pan out but we will keep things constantly under review and you should be reassured that we will have the children's best interests at heart. Many things have changed recently but our approach to providing the best for the children has not!

A number of issues have been in the media recently but relatively few have required any change from our previous letter in July.

-  We know it will be strange after all these months but we have included dealing with the impact of this into our curriculum planning with time for discussion, mindfulness sessions and behaviour approach.
-  Please do not concern yourselves too much with the children catching up as we have built this into our planning too with a strong focus on reading, writing and maths.
-  Our assessment process will identify gaps and we will provide tailored programmes to facilitate the progress required.
-  **The children will need to come in via the outside gate and will be guided directly into their classrooms so there is no waiting in the playground or outside the inner gates. The outer gate will be open at 8:30; please do not come before that, as we want to limit the gatherings. School will start at 8:45 as usual for Years 4, 5 and 6.**
-  **New Year 3's will have a later start for the first day and first full week from 9:00 – 9:15 they will be collected by their class teachers from the gate and taken to their new classes. They will undertake orientation activities during the day.**
-  **At the end of the day the children will leave in safe numbers from 2:45 as usual – again parents will need to stay outside the outer gates. New Year 3's will leave from 2:30 with their class teachers.**
-  The children will work in their classes of 30 or less in the same group throughout the day to minimise movement but will be accessing a wide curriculum including PE and the use of our specialist rooms where appropriate. Strict hygiene procedures are in place to avoid cross-contamination.
-  Support for children with EHC plans will be in line with guidelines.
-  Classrooms are laid out to minimise contact, with desks arranged for all children to be facing forward where possible.
-  Clear signage shows where the children should be moving with many reminders of keeping a safe distance.
-  There are posters in each room and around the school reminding children of the need for good hygiene approaches. The children will wash their hands regularly and use sanitisers throughout the day.
-  The children will be given their own personal equipment for their use only which will be ready for them in their class
-  Unfortunately, we will not be able to start our extensive after school club provision immediately but will look to start as soon as it is safe to do so.
-  Similarly, we will need to see how the week progresses before we can start our Breakfast Club. .
-  Children will have Break Times with their year group allowing them a large amount of outdoor space to facilitate safe practices.

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- Year groups will have lunch together and outdoor play to minimise the number of groups they come into contact with during the day. Dining areas are disinfected after each sitting.
- Normal school uniform is expected; please contact us if there is a problem.
- Masks are not deemed necessary by the guidance for primary aged children but we will be flexible about this if you have an issue as long as it does not interfere with learning. The children may wear them outside if they wish.
- We have been able to facilitate safe changing areas for PE so the children will not need to come into school in their PE kit.
- Attendance is compulsory from September so we are expecting all the children to come in unless they are ill. Guidance is very clear that you should not send your child in if they are ill. Please let us know via the usual process so we can record
- If your child or a member of staff is ill with Covid-19 symptoms we will isolate them and send them home where they will be expected to obtain a negative test before returning. We are following Public Health Guidelines throughout all of our processes including the Public Health System of Nine controls.
- We are unable to provide our normal approach with parents coming into school so please communicate via the class Dojo for the class teacher or enquiries@orchardsjunior.school for any whole school issues.
- I also want to draw your attention to a communications pack that the Department for Education has created with materials to help school leaders inform and reassure parents who are preparing for their children's return to school. The pack is available on [Dropbox](#) and leaflets, posters and other resources are available via the [Public Health England communications resources hub](#). It will be updated as and when more content becomes available. We are recommending that parents visit gov.uk/backtoschool for information and practical guidance to help them plan for their children's return to school. This includes the latest update to the [guidance for parents and carers on what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#).

Please contact us if you have any issues that you wish to discuss or are unsure of anything. We are undertaking a dynamic review as well as a weekly update and will be committed to making your child's schooling as sparkling and safe as possible.

Best Wishes

Dr Jones