



"All Learning Together"

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Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on the plans we have for our return to school on Monday 8th March. As I have said before, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school. I will make sure that I am on the gate on Monday morning so you will see me then and I will be available if you need to discuss anything. I do appreciate that for many of you, returning to school will cause some anxiety. I would like to reassure you that as ever, we are following guidance and adhering to our risk assessment to ensure that we keep our whole school community as safe as possible. To this end, we have made some slight changes.

1. Key Stage Bubbles

We have worked hard to create a timetable that means staff can stay in either the Key Stage 1 (Derwent and Foss) or Key Stage 2 (Ouse and Rye) bubbles. Mrs Bowman will carry out any teacher PPA and Leadership cover for Key Stage 1 and Mrs Huntriss will cover PPA and Leadership time for Key Stage 2. We will continue to stagger playtimes and lunchtimes, and the use of play equipment.

2. Staggered Start and Finish Times

As from Monday 8th March, Key Stage 2 children will have a start time of 8.45am. Key Stage 1 will start slightly later at 8.55am. This alters the pick-up time slightly. Key Stage 2 will finish at 3.15pm and Key Stage 1 will finish at 3.25pm. **Please note that Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have therefore swapped their start and finish times around.** A variety of factors have influenced this slight change but I am especially grateful for useful parent feedback which has also helped to inform this decision. Please note that children in Key Stage 1 who are on the bus will be getting on the bus at the usual times. Please also note that class registers are taken at these start times therefore it is really important that all children arrive in school on time.

3. Equipment

Once again, it would be useful if children could bring a pencil case with them. Ideally, these should be wipeable and not too large. Children will not be able to use the water fountain therefore all children need a named water bottle which will be kept in their classroom. Please be aware that fruit juice and cordial is allowed to accompany a packed lunch but that only water should be used in water bottles for the classroom. We will not be serving tuck as we assess how our plans for the school day are working. Hopefully we will be able to start tuck again after Easter. We do have free fruit for children in Key Stage 1 but you are welcome to send your child in with fruit for morning playtime. We do not allow wrapped snacks at playtime and these include items such as fruit winders. PE will be outside where possible so please ensure that all children have named PE kit in school.

4. Parents and Visitors in School

Unfortunately, we are not able to welcome parents and visitors into the school building unless for specific work or pre-arranged meetings. All adults entering the school site should wear face masks and this includes at drop

Head teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray
Chair of Governors: Mr Howard Widdall

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off and pick up times. As Key Stage 2 children are dropped off first, I am hopeful that this will reduce parking congestion as I encourage as many of you as possible to drop off your children without the need to wait on the playground. I appreciate that some children might find the point of leaving parents difficult, especially as we get used to being back in school however, I ask that parents do not take children down to their lines. School staff will be looking out for any children who need help and reassurance in the morning and will come up top play to help bring the children in. A pink box for any communication for the school office will be outside the school door for you to leave any letters or communication for me or Sam.

5. Settling back in

Our main objective over the first few weeks will be to help all the children settle back into school life. We will incorporate activities throughout the school day that will aim to help the children enjoy being back together, develop their relationships with their friends once again and adapt to our routines.

As I said in my email last week, school attendance becomes mandatory again on Monday. All children are therefore expected in school and we are so looking forward to seeing them. It goes without saying that COVID restrictions still apply. Information about this can be found on our school website. It is important therefore that if you or someone in your household develop COVID symptoms, you are required to notify the school and isolate for the period of 10 days. School staff are now carrying out regular Lateral Flow Tests and we will of course be continuing with the handwashing and classroom arrangements as before.

This Friday, work will be slightly different as we are coming to the end of merged learning. As we are not in school this year to celebrate World Book Day tomorrow, we will send some activities for Friday centred around the joy of reading. We hope you will enjoy them.

I very much look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning. I absolutely cannot wait!

Very best wishes,

Rachel Ray
Headteacher