



## Information for Parents/Carers regarding the phased re-opening of schools for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

### Households experiencing COVID-19 symptoms

If you are considering sending your child/children back to school, the following information is of utmost importance. If any members of your household are experiencing Coronavirus symptoms, please do not send your child to school. Please only send them once testing of the family member experiencing symptoms is confirmed as negative.

If a test indicates a positive result, the household should isolate for 14 days and it is imperative that the school is informed at the earliest opportunity. Further guidance will be sent pending further information from the government.

If your child begins to feel unwell at school, we will take their temperature and call you to come and collect your child. He/she will be isolated from other staff and children with the exception of one staff member until you arrive. Please only consider sending your children back to school if you are going to be able to answer your telephone and collect your child in a timely manner.

### Staggered start times to the beginning and the end of each day

In considering the safety for you and your child/ children, our staff and the wider community of Slindon, it is important that we stagger the start and end of the day to reduce risk of transmission. Our school is only a small site and the new routines of adhering to social distancing, regular handwashing, including handwashing on entering the school building, mean that things take a little longer than usual.

#### Beginning of the day:

In the mornings, we ask that you park and enter the school, strictly adhering to social distancing, returning to your car quickly to allow for the next year group to enter the site safely. As before lockdown, please do not enter the school site but accompany your child as far as the school gate before a member of staff will guide them into school to put away their limited belongings and wash their hands. As before, we ask that you and your child/ children wash their hands before leaving your house. We will be waiting to welcome the children from each year group at the following times;

**9.00- Children in Reception** can be brought to the school gate and may enter school

**9.15- Children in Year 1** can be brought to the school gate and may enter school

**9.30- Children in Year 6** can be brought to the school gate and may enter school.

#### End of the day:

At the end of the day, we will stand each year group at 2-metre intervals inside the school gate until we see you and send your child to you. It is imperative at this point that you follow social distancing guidelines. We will be ready to send the children out to you promptly at the following times;

**2.45- Children in Reception** will be brought to the school gate to be handed back to you.

**3.00- Children in Year 1** will be brought to the school gate to be handed back to you.

**3.15- Children in Year 6** will be brought to the school gate to be handed back to you.

Where siblings will be attending school, a time can be arranged to drop off and collect both siblings together. Where these timings are incompatible with work schedules, we will endeavor to meet your requirements but must also consider the safety of staff and children as we increase in numbers. In these cases, please contact the school via telephone or email to speak with Miss Cooper.

As no parents will be allowed onto the school premises, if you need to speak with the office staff, we ask that you telephone or email the school. This includes incidences where you may need to collect your child early. No-one other than staff, or pupils accompanied by staff should enter the school grounds beyond the school gate.

### **What your child may wear and bring into school**

In recognition of the need for more frequent/ daily washing of clothes after each school day, we do not expect children to come to school in their school uniform. Therefore, **children should come to school each day in non-uniform.**

To reduce the risk of transmission, children will need **to come to school wearing their PE kit on the new allocated day for their year group**, wearing appropriate footwear for physical activity on the field such as trainers.

- Reception/ Year 1 will have PE on a Thursday
- Year 6 will have PE on a Tuesday

At the moment, we ask that you **do not** send your child in with a bookbag.

Please check the weather carefully to send your child each day with a jumper or coat as necessary, to **reduce the items of clothing that come to and from school** and may get lost or left behind, or taken home accidentally by another child.

Children will continue to need to bring a **named water bottle** into school.

Children may continue to bring a **named packed lunch** to school, as usual.

If your child may require a **change of clothing at school, we ask that this is left at school** as opposed to being brought to and from school each day. We will only send it home if it needs to be washed and returned to you.

As usual, please **apply long-lasting sun-cream**, as necessary, to your child each day. At this time of the year, we spend time every day outside on the field and so all children will need a **named sunhat that we would like to remain at school until the end of the academic year.**

### **Lunchtimes and Breaktimes**

We have been advised that children who usually have hot meals will be able to continue to do this. We already have staggered lunchtimes but the children will no longer queue in the corridor. They will remain in their seats and their meals will be brought to them by a member of staff. Children with

packed lunches will collect their lunch from the side of the class and then remain seated as they eat their lunch, as they normally would. They will remain at their desk until the class has finished.

During lunch play and morning break, children in Catkin Class (Reception and Year 1) will not mix with the older children (Chestnut Class). We have organised playtime resources to facilitate for as much social distancing as possible. For the older children, games such as Rounders and Cricket will lend themselves well to social distancing requirements.

## **Curriculum**

The changes that we have been required to make in our classrooms mean that we cannot teach in the way that we normally would. The extended length of time that children have been away from the school, combined with the changes the children will need to become accustomed to, mean that our priority will be their mental health and well-being in the immediate term. Children will need time to adapt to the new routines and procedures. Once children have settled back, we will continually look to see how we can resume a level of normality within the curriculum, and a return to a more familiar timetable.

## **Class layout**

For Year 6 children, their class layout has changed to allow for social distancing guidelines. Whilst the government guidance has moved from social distancing requirements to 'bubbles' of children that do not mix, we will keep with the 2-metres for as long as we are able to. There is currently space for nine individual desks and children will not freely move around their class and the wider school as they normally would. We will make the most of the space outside of Chestnuts class and the wider school grounds as much as possible. Children will be allocated their own set of resources that they will keep on their desk and no equipment is expected to be brought from home.

For Reception and Year 1 children, much of the furniture has been removed from Catkin Class. An audit of the resources has been conducted and intricate resources that are difficult to clean, along with the rug, soft toys and furnishings have been removed. But with the additional space, we have been able to keep the tables as they were, ensuring that the change in this class is not so dramatic for the younger children. We have planned how we can give children individual resources to use, to minimize the need for sharing as much as possible. While we acknowledge that children will need gentle support and modelling to socially distance from their peers and staff, we plan to keep them busy and excited using the carefully considered resources we will be using. We will spend much of the term as we normally would, in the outdoor area.

## **School layout**

Alongside the changes made in individual classes, there are some changes necessary in the wider school. Toilets have been allocated to each class to ensure that adults can manage how many children are accessing the toilet at one time. Catkin class will use the toilets in their classroom and children will learn to ask to go to the toilet, rather than freely access them as they are used to. Chestnut Class will use the toilets in the corridor and will ask to go the toilet, ensuring that only one child is in the toilet at any one time.

The Glade is being used to temporarily store furniture to allow for greater space in the classrooms. The room is will only be used as a fire exit as part of normal fire evacuation procedures. New fire risks and procedures will be implemented such as lining up on 2-metre markings on the playground.

Corridors will no longer be used freely by the children for occasions such as going to the office. Staff will model social distancing when movement in the corridor is necessary.

The library will not be freely accessible to the children.

### **How to prepare your child to return to school**

We expect that all children will experience some level of anxiety at returning to school. If you are considering sending your child/children back to school, it will help if you gently and appropriately discuss with them the nature of the changes that I have outlined in this information to you.

I know that you trust in us to support your child/children to adapt to a new way of being at school. We will ensure that they feel safe and happy and quickly adjust to any changes. We also trust that in sending your child back to school, you will adhere to the necessary changes and work with us to support your child/children.