



Welcome to School

Autumn Term 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a very warm welcome! We are all really looking forward to a fantastic start to our new academic year with our children joining us in their new classes. I am sure the children are all very excited to be coming back to school to re-establish friendships and make new friends, as are the staff.

Unfortunately it has not quite been the sunny and warm weather expected throughout the holidays but I hope you have been able to have quality family time together. I think this term will be one of mixed seasons, so please ensure your child has suitable and named clothing, layers are always a good idea.

There have been many Government directives that we have been following throughout the Summer to make preparations for our return to school as safe as possible. There has been a lifting of the wearing of masks generally but the guidance has also stated that wearing masks is to be encouraged when in confined spaces with other people with whom you do not usually mix, I take this to include entering the school site following confined routes. Please support us by wearing a mask if you are able to, this is to protect our whole community, both adults and children. For this reason I would like to ask that you continue to wear a mask on site, when dropping your child off and collecting them. I have asked staff to continue to wear masks at classroom doors for the same reason. Staff will continue to use lateral flow test kits twice a week to ensure any positive cases are picked up quickly.

There has been a change to the guidance for self-isolation and new guidance regarding vaccinations. The latest guidance states:

If you are a contact of a confirmed Covid-19 case you do not need to self-isolate if:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Therefore, if there is a confirmed case at school we will follow our now well-rehearsed procedure of isolating within school in a designated area and contacting you to collect your child as soon as possible. It is really important that we have updated contacts for you should this need to happen. Other children will now not be required by school to self-isolate as the Government has now taken over the running of the track and trace process, so it is only if you have been identified by the positive case as a close contact that you will be contacted to self-isolate by the track and trace app, this will not be done by school as before.

I have attached the latest summary Risk Assessment for you and our schools Outbreak Management Plan. These outline our processes and procedures for a situation if a case were to be identified, what we have done to mitigate the risks and what we would do in response. If you would like any further clarification we will be able to provide this. These are summary documents of quite weighty documentation that we have to have in place, so will not necessarily have the detail but this can be provided as is in place.

The guidance is the same if you have a member of your family living at home who has tested positive on a PCR test. If you are living with someone who has tested positive you also need to take a PCR test, and if that result is negative then you should be able to continue to bring your child to school. I would however ask, that if this is the case you take a lateral flow test on a daily basis during the other family members' isolation to ensure your own well-being. Test kits for this can be delivered to your home for free through Amazon, or can be picked up from local pharmacies. If your child is needing to isolate and you are the



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primary carer, then you will need to let school know via email to the office, so suitable remote learning arrangements can be made.

We will continue to operate our designated routes for entry and exiting the school site. Year 2 and Reception children will enter via the main school gate on Hamstel Road and follow the barrier routes accordingly. Year 1 and Nursery children will enter via Poynings Avenue gate and follow the barrier route in and out of site using the 'stop' / 'go' method.

There is a change for Frog, Duck and Heron classes that we are going to introduce. Instead of being met on the corner of the playground nearest the hall and then collecting your child from the hall, we are going to ask that you take your child through the nearest gate to Frog Class and then continue through the outdoor play area to exit through the furthest gate opposite Heron Class. Staff will be on duty around this area to ensure this new procedure can be followed to ease access to these classes.

We continue to operate our flexible drop off time as 8.30am to 9.00am prompt and collection times 3.00pm to 3.10pm prompt pick up please.

I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support and trust in the decisions that we have made. I would like to assure you that we try at all times to have our children's and community's safety and best interests at the forefront of all the choices we make. I will keep you all updated if there are any changes to guidance or our procedures in due course.

I look forward to working with all our families and children again for what I hope will be a more settled year ahead.

With my very best wishes to you all.

Lisa Clark
Headteacher