

To enable all children to achieve, access, participate and contribute to their community for life'

Kindness

Respect

Inclusivity

Openness

Resilience

Empathy

Trust

Understanding

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope children have enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday. A warm welcome back to school for the new academic year beginning on Monday 6th September. A special welcome to new children and their families joining our school community this term.

Covid-safety this term

Our risk assessment for Covid-safety this term is now on the Academy website for you to read. The aim of this term is to resume 'normal' operations as much as possible whilst adhering to the specific guidance from the DfE particularly around ventilation of all rooms, hand washing and sanitising throughout our daily routine and frequent cleaning of classrooms, surfaces, handles, equipment, etc. throughout the day. These are the recommended baseline safety measures of the DfE guidance. The use of the bubble system has now been removed. The DfE intends to review these baseline recommendations after six weeks.

However, any secondary pupils and staff who wish to continue to wear masks in school will still be able to do so.

All pupils over the age of 11 (pupils in secondary phase) will still be required to wear masks on taxi transport unless they are exempt from wearing them.

In the event of PHE declaring an 'outbreak' at our academy we will liaise with them to put in place an Outbreak Management Plan which would follow their advice given. In such an event, we may be advised to put in place previous additional control measures or that some pupils are required to return to remote learning for a short period of time so that the outbreak can be controlled.

In our return to 'normal' this term, children will be staggered in three sittings for lunch to be eaten in the lunch hall once again. Rigorous cleaning measures will be in place between each sitting. New starter pupils may have lunch in classrooms to begin with. Teachers will deliver social stories to support children with daily routines for health and safety and a return to lunch in the hall.

Please remember we are a **nut-safe school** and children should not bring any food items that contain nuts in packed lunches.

Thank you to those parents of secondary phase pupils who have returned permission forms for lateral flow testing of their child. All pupils in secondary phase with parental permission will be tested in school on Monday morning and a second test will be administered on Thursday morning. After these initial two tests, parents will test secondary pupils twice a week at home (on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening), as before. Lateral flow testing kits will be supplied and sent home with pupils. Please ensure you test your child at home to keep the community safe.

Other information

For safeguarding purposes, there are CCTV cameras positioned in school corridors this year. The Academy's site-specific safeguarding arrangements policy can be found on our website.

Please ensure your child attends school in their correct and full school uniform this term. Pupils may wear black tracksuit trousers and black trainers if this is more comfortable for them than school trousers/skirt and shoes. Please phone Mrs Edwards at the reception desk if you have any queries about uniform.

Pupils will arrive at school at 8.55am. Primary pupils will enter through the primary gate where their teacher and a senior leader will greet them. Pupils in secondary phase will arrive and enter through the secondary gate with staff supervision.

For pupils who are new to school, our deputy principals, Mr Spalding in primary phase and Mr Jones in secondary phase, will have contacted you with your child's individual transition arrangements for week one of term. Sadly, Mr Humphreys is not returning this year.

We aim to hold strong professional partnerships with parents/carers. If you have any concerns or want to inform/ask the class teacher or senior leaders of anything regarding your child, please phone them outside of teaching hours or leave a message for them to contact you with the reception desk. Parents can also email class teachers directly between the hours of 8.30 and 5.00pm. Your child's class teacher will email with an overview of class activities and the learning that has taken place for your child on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. We will not return to home/school communication books as email better reduces teachers' workload.

Our whole academy learning theme for Autumn Term is '*All About Me*'. For children in EYFS to key stage 3, the four Cornerstones imaginative learning project for your child's class, related to their learning stage, can be found on the website detailing what they will be learning this term. Teachers will keep parents/carers well informed about their child's provision and progress through twice weekly emails. We will also return to class newsletters with fortnightly information about our full and broad curriculum, including the series of teaching and learning activities that have been delivered. The intent for each curriculum subject, including personal/social development, can be found on the Academy's website along with our curriculum statement.

Our intent in the first half term is to ensure all children settle into class routines well, make healthy relationships with their staff team and peers to feel happy, safe and secure in their learning environment and our school community. Throughout the first few weeks of this term teachers will conduct informal assessments, through their observations across the curriculum and personal, social & emotional skills development, of what each child knows and can do and what their next steps need to be. New targets for the term, linked to individual EHC Plan outcomes, will be set that are specific to your child. These will be shared on your child's individual pupil profile in parents' meetings before half term. Dates to follow.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with your class teacher or contact the Academy reception and we will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to a safe, happy and busy new school year.

Warm Regards,



Mrs Ives
(Principal)

