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March Re-opening plans

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well and ready for the return to school next week.

We are writing to you to update you on plans for children's return on Monday 8th March. Much of the information will be the same to our re-opening letter in September. We advise you to read the re-opening risk assessment alongside this letter.

How can I keep the school community safe?

- Please do not send your child in if they are showing any of the Covid-19 symptoms (new, continuous cough, a change in taste or smell, a high temperature).
- Please do not send your child in if your household has been told to self-isolate.
- Please Wear a mask on site when collecting and dropping off (unless exempt).
- Ensure you are following government guidelines.

Will there be new bubbles?

For most of their day, the children will be working with the other children in their own class. However, in order to make playtimes and dinnertimes work at Courtney, we have organised the school into 'bridged bubbles'. This means that if we have a positive Covid case, we can minimise the number of children affected.

Year 1 Bubble = Y1

KS1 Bubble = YR and Y2

Lower KS2 Bubble = Y3 & Y4

Upper KS2 Bubble = Y5 & Y6

We are organising the staff team so that we minimise the number of adults who work in more than one bubble as much as we can.

Any child who attends our Out of School Club (OoSC) will also be part of OoSC bubbles.

What do I need to know about drop off and pick up?

We have set up a series of measures for drop off and pick up (please do read the full text in section 3.1 of our Risk Assessment which can be found on the website). The main points are:

- All of our entrances and exits will be in use with lines painted to ensure social distances can be maintained.
- Only one adult per family should come to pick up or drop off in order to minimise the number of people on site. In line with government guidance, we are asking for all parents to wear face coverings when on site or outside of the school gates.



- Any adults waiting should stand well back and keep 2m distance from others.
- If your child is older, try to arrange to meet them away from the exit doors e.g., on the top playground.
- The outside toilets will remain locked and the trim trail, swing and slide are closed for use.
- Please stick as closely as you can to pick up and drop off times to avoid overcrowding.
- Make your time on site as short as possible i.e do not linger or use the space for social 'catch ups'.
- Keep the gates clear so people can enter and exit safely.
- Walk, bike or scooter to school if you are able.

What time does my child need to come to school and be picked up?

We are using 3 entrances in order to get everyone in and out without taking up too much of the children's learning time.

1. Gages Road entrance
2. Courtney Road entrance
3. Ramp to office leading to balcony gate entrance.

Group	Who is in the group	Drop Off and Pick-Up point	Extra Instruction	Drop off	Pick up
1	Reception Group A + any older siblings in school	EYFS gate	Siblings go in/come out of either KS1 (Y1/2) or KS2 (Y3-6) door	8:40-8:45	3:10 - 3:15
2	Reception Group B	EYFS gate	n/a	8:55-9:00	2:55-3:00
3	Year 1 children with older siblings in school + the older siblings	KS1 door	Siblings go in/come out of either KS1 (Y2) or KS2 (Y3-6) door	8:45-8:50	3:15
4	Year 1 children with no siblings in other classes	KS1 door	n/a	8:50-8:55	3:15
5	Year 2 children with older siblings in school + the older siblings	KS2 door	Siblings go in/come out of KS2 (Y3-6) door	8:40-8:45	3:05
6	Year 2 children with no siblings in other classes	KS2 door	n/a	8:55-9:00	3:05
7	Year 3 children with older siblings in school + the older siblings	KS2 door	Siblings go in/come out of KS2 (Y3-6) door	8:45-8:50	3:15
8	Year 3 children with no siblings in other classes	KS2 door	n/a	8:50-8:55	3:15
9	Year 4 children with older siblings in school + the older siblings	Ramp near office at front of school	It is expected that parents do not come onto site with their child if using this entrance. If you are not comfortable with that, then please use the KS2 door at the	8:40-8:50	3:15



10	Year 4 children with no siblings in other classes	Ramp near office at front of school	back.	8:40-8:50	3:15
11	Year 5 any children without younger siblings in school +the older siblings	Ramp near office at front of school		8:40-8:50	3:15
12	Year 6 any children without siblings in school	Ramp near office at front of school		8:40-8:50	3:15

What does my child need to bring into school?

- Your child will need to wear their school uniform.
- There will be no need to bring in a PE kit. On the days your child is doing PE, they will need to come dressed in their PE kit (white T-shirt, trainers, and as close to black tracksuit trousers as you can manage). It is not appropriate to wear daps as these will be unsuitable for outdoor play.
- Bring in a pair of wellies to be left in school (named). We have a new welly rack for each class.
- Wear black shoes that are sturdy and are safe to run around in.
- No pencil cases or personal items from home should be brought in.
- Packed lunch boxes, a healthy mid-morning snack and a water bottle will be needed each day. Please label water bottle and lunch box.
- We will not be selling tuck initially. Each KS1 child will receive a free piece of fruit daily in the afternoon.
- A coat to keep your child warm and dry (as we want to go out in all weathers).
- Your child will NOT need a face mask; this guidance is for secondary schools only.
- Reading books which need changing.

What is happening about Out of School Club (OoSC) and sports clubs?

OoSC will commence the week beginning the **15th March**. Further details of timings and fees will be sent out in due course.

Sports clubs will hopefully be commencing later in the term. Further details will follow once details have been finalised.

Will you be serving hot school dinners?

Using a staggered dinnertime, we are able to provide hot school dinners. For children from Reception to Year 2, the school will provide them with a free meal. For children in Year 3 and upwards, the meals are good value at £2.25.

For those who prefer, a healthy packed lunch can be brought in from home. If your financial circumstances have changed due to the lockdown, please look at the South Glos website to see if you are now eligible for Free School Meals. For every child in school (even those in the Infants), if you meet the Free School Meal criteria, then the school will offer you money off towards school visits and uniform so check to see if you are eligible:

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=96T2gCAk10A#free>

Can we change our child's reading and library books?

We will be putting systems into place for book changing which will involve periods of quarantining for returned books. Our aim is for all of the children to also have a weekly timetabled visit to the library; we will start this with the older children. Please bear with us while we establish our new routines.

Can we visit the School office?

We will now be re-opening the school office for parents and carers, but please can we ask you still to minimise this as much as you can by using the phone or email wherever possible. If you do need to visit the office, you must keep 2m from other visitors and our office staff using the markings and try to avoid busy times.

Will you administer medication?

In the current circumstances, we are no longer administering medication during the school day (with the exception of long-term agreements made as part of Health Care Plans). If your child needs medication during school hours, you will need to make arrangements with the School office to administer it yourself.

What will the curriculum be like?

We are mindful of the fact that each child will be coming back to school having had different experiences of lockdown. Our initial planning in the core subjects of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, will be flexible enough for the teachers to adapt to the different starting points and the current stamina levels of each child and so the learning can be personalised.

The foundation subjects will build on the prior learning previously taught and we will continue to give quality time to our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum. We are also putting in extra opportunities for the children to be more physically active during the week and to have opportunities to re-connect with skills such as teamwork, resilience and cooperation.

What will the first day be like?

As part of getting our children ready for learning and supporting their social interaction, we are having a 'coffee style morning' on Monday 8th March with nut free brioche buns and squash for all children. They will be given the opportunity to have a chat, play a game and/or catch up. We feel this will be beneficial in providing our children with some reassurance and a much needed chance to talk. We believe this will help all children to get into the right frame of mind, ready for learning. We will then be revisiting the school rules and discussing expectations, so everyone is clear what is expected of them.

If you would prefer your child to **not** take part in having **brioche buns and squash** on Monday 8th March, please let the **School office** know by **Friday 5th March**.

Is there anything we need to know?

If there is anything you think your teacher or the school needs to know about your child's experiences during this lockdown which you haven't already shared, please do let them know via the office email. This might include: your child's reaction to lockdown (loved it and really thrived, worked hard, did not do any work), any family issues, mental health issues, new skills acquired.

Whilst we have taken every step to ensure our community are kept safe, please do let us know if something is not working as well as it could be. Any updates will be shared accordingly, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 8th March. Once again, thank you for your continued support with home schooling, a much deserved rest bite is within site.