

Thursday 21st May 2020

Re: Coronavirus Covid 19 – UPDATE – School Re-opening planning

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

Since I last wrote to you all I have been busy putting together plans with the Leadership Team, Chair of Governors and the staff team to support a safe and gradual return to school for the following year groups: Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Over the coming days, I will be writing to you with information about the plans and to answer any questions you might have.

Monday 1st June and Tuesday 2nd June

The school will continue to be open for those children currently accessing childcare. All staff will return to school on this date to start preparing classrooms and planning for re-opening.

Wednesday 3rd June and Thursday 4th June

We will be welcoming Reception back to school. More details will be shared with you about how this will be arranged.

Childcare children will still attend.

Friday 5th June

We will be welcoming Year 6 back to school. More details will be shared with you about how this will be arranged.

Reception and Childcare children will still attend

Monday 8th June

We will be welcoming Year 1 and some Nursery children back to school. More details will be shared with you about how this will be arranged.

Reception, Childcare children and Year 6 children will still attend.

From Tuesday 9th June

Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Childcare children will attend. Other Year Groups will not be invited to attend until the Government have announced this and further guidance is received about managing this.

Class Organisation

In line with Government guidance, we have arranged for every year group to be split into four smaller teaching groups, with no more than 15 children. Each group will have a teacher and an additional adult to teach and support these children. I will let you know very soon who the teachers and additional adults are – this information is just being finalised.

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Roderick Avenue North, Peacehaven

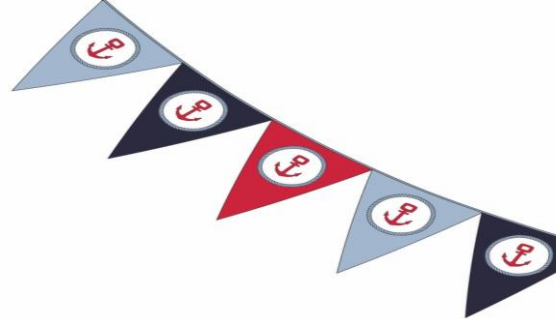
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Social Distancing

Every teaching group will become what is called a 'bubble' which means that this group will not mix with any other groups during the school day. All classrooms will be prepared to accommodate as much social distancing as possible, however we are not able to guarantee 2 metres distance between any of the children and staff in our classrooms. We have made plans in line with Government guidance which states:

"We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account."

[Schools] should, therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out in implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings:

- *Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *Frequent handwashing and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- *Regular cleaning of settings*
- *Minimising contact and mixing"*

Social distancing for parents will be supported by developing strict dropping off and picking up rules that we will expect parents to follow to support us in keeping everyone safe.

Please respect the safety of our school staff by keeping 2 metres distance when speaking with them. Please do not be offended if a member of staff asks for their social distancing space to be respected.

Handwashing

Regular handwashing with soap and running hot water will continue throughout the school day. I know that for some children, their hands were becoming really sore, so children are welcome to bring in hand cream but they will have to be able to manage this independently as staff are not able to support with this.

Drop off and Pick up

We will be staggering the drop off and pick up times to minimise the numbers of people on site at any one time. **It is vital that parents are prompt with these times to avoid increases in numbers.** The times will be:

	Drop off	Pick up
Childcare	8.45am	2.30pm
Year 6	8.55am	2.40pm
Year 1	9.05am	2.50pm
Reception	9.15am	3.00pm

Nursery will be operating two sessions with the following drop off and pick up times.

	Drop off	Pick up
Morning session	8.45am	11.15am
Afternoon session	12.15pm	2.45pm

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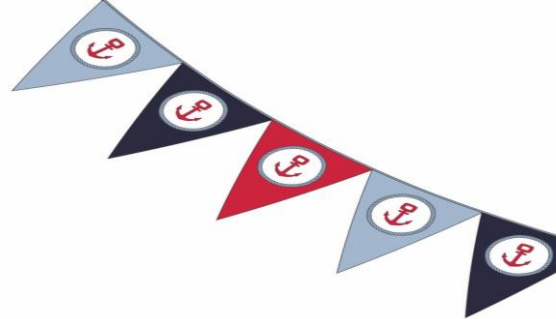
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Please note to support safety and additional cleaning for the Nursery, we will not be able to support lunches being eaten in the Nursery. Further information about this will be sent out to Nursery parents soon.

There will be a clear one-way system for parents to access the school grounds with social distancing and signage around to support everyone with this. It is an expectation that parents following this social distancing rules for everyone's safety. **The car park will not available for any parents/carers including those with disabled badges. The back gate accessed via Cripps Avenue will not be opened for these new school reopening plans.** A map of this one-way system will be shared with you soon. For the first few days of this new system, members of staff will be available to support you with this.

Learning Activities

The teachers will continue to plan exciting activities for all children and for those that do not or are not able to attend school, these activities will be available on our website to access at home. We will be having a theme of "Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds" to support keeping ourselves physically and mentally well – which is very significant at the moment. We are hoping that if the weather continues, we will have lots of opportunities for the children to enjoy learning outside with their teaching groups.

Play times and Lunchtimes

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to avoid the teaching groups coming into direct contact with each other. The playgrounds and field will be zoned to support the children to know where they can play. Each teaching group will be supported by one of the adults in their group at all times. The outdoor equipment will not be used to avoid cross contamination. Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms. The kitchen will re-open and hot food can be ordered and will be taken to the children to eat in their classrooms by one of the adults from their groups. **All children must bring in their own named water bottle as the water fountains will not be available. Drinking water is available in all areas of the school so that these water bottles can be refilled.**

Toilets

All children will be accompanied to the toilet by one of the adults in their group who will wait outside to ensure that there are a minimum number of children accessing the toilets at any one time.

Additional cleaning

I have met with EMCOR leads and East Sussex County Council and I completed a Health and Safety walk with members of the EMCOR and Michelle Hunt to identify additional cleaning for the school. In addition to a thorough clean at the end of each day, after lunchtimes, there will be additional cleaning of touch points (like door handles, light switches, bannisters) and toilets as well as emptying bins with tissues and hand towels. Additional cleaning resources will be in place in all classrooms to support wiping down tables and resources throughout the day.

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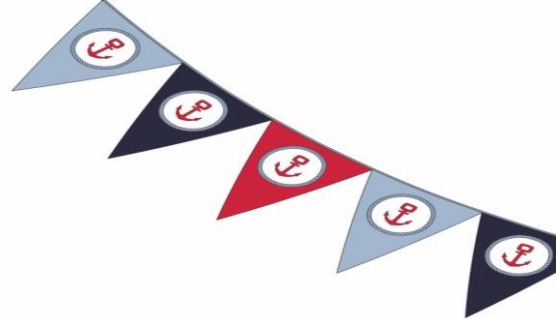
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Toys in Nursery and Reception will be put in the washing machines and dishwashers to ensure these are cleaned at the end of every day. Another washing machine has been purchased to support these additional cleaning expectations.

Attendance

I completely understand that this is a big decision for parents to make and there is no expectation for your children to attend if you make the decision not to do so. If you decide not to, there will be no penalties for non-attendance in line with Government guidelines, which states *"Parents and carers of eligible year groups, critical workers/parents and carers of vulnerable children, are strongly encouraged to bring in their children, but they will not face fines or other sanctions if they don't"*

If your child is in one of the groups that the school is reopening for and you decide not to bring them in, we would ask that you still call the school and leave a message every day that your child is absent just so that we know what is happening and to offer support if you require it.

Coronavirus COVID 19 symptoms

If your child develops symptoms, such as a continuous cough or high temperature, you will be required to keep them off school and seek appropriate advice, including self isolation for 7 days and 14 days for the household. You will be able to arrange a test through NHS from 1st June, according to the latest Government advice. If your child develops symptoms in school, we will call you and ask you to come and collect them and arrange a test. One of the adults in the teaching group will accompany your child to a safe space away from others and wait with them until you arrive to collect them. You will need to self-isolate for 7 days and 14 days for the household. Here is the official guidance from the Government:

"What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?"

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other

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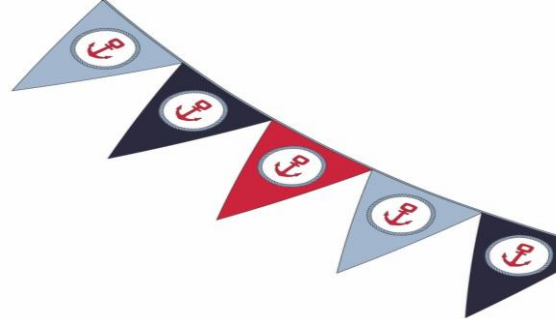
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children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.”

What happens next?

I appreciate that this is lot of information to take in and digest, so over the coming days, I will be writing to you again to provide further information and added details to some of the planned actions describe above.

I will be sending out the FAQs sheet tomorrow and will update this again next week with any more information or questions received.

I have invited the Parent Council to meet with me (virtually of course!) to answer any questions that they might have or that you might want them to ask on your behalf.

I cannot guarantee that I will know the answers to everything, but I will try my best to answer them based on the Government guidance.

I know that we are looking forward to welcoming some of the children back once the Government has made a final announcement towards the end of next week and I hope you can see everything that we are doing to keep you, your children and the staff safe.

Special thanks to Mr. Doody and Miss. Miles for all their help with putting these plans together.

Take care and best wishes to everyone

Kind regards

C. Westcott

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