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Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you have all managed to have a break at some point this summer. We have been extremely busy at Margaret Roper during the summer holidays, with lots of decorating, plumbing and other works taking place, as well as hosting the summer sports coaching scheme for five weeks. We are now ready to welcome all our children back on Monday.

We also look forward to welcoming our new Reception children and any other new joiners to our lovely school. I look forward to greeting you all personally over the next few days.

We are hoping that we can see a start to returning to some degree of normality in school life, including some aspects that have been restricted in the last few terms.

I attach a document which outlines the key arrangements for the half term, in terms of our mitigation plan for Covid-19. Please read it carefully. I also attach a second document that outlines what we will do in the event of an outbreak. We are still updating the risk assessment, as we are still receiving information from the DfE so this will be published on the website next week.

While restrictions have been removed in many aspects of life, evidence from areas where schools are already open leads us to believe that there will be an increase in covid-19 cases locally. This is mitigated by vaccination of most adults by now. Guidance states that, for fully vaccinated adults and for children, self-isolation if they are close contacts of a confirmed case is not required, as long as they are not showing symptoms. Please read the document attached for additional information.

Please don't send in pupils who have Covid-19 symptoms or are otherwise unwell. If we are concerned about your child we will call you and may request that you take them for a PCR test. This is to protect the whole school community. Thank you for your support. We have also agreed, that we will inform you if there is a confirmed case in your child's class, or a group that they are in. This is so you can be aware and vigilant for symptoms. I'll update our information weekly in a standing newsletter item and as often as necessary.

Key information that you need to know for Monday is:

School recommences from 8.30am on Monday 6th September. The alley gates will be open from 8.30-8.45am. Please drop off your child at the gate and they will make their way up to class. I will be there to meet everyone at the gate.

Collection is from the school playground at 3pm. The alley gate will be open from 2.45pm. While it is not a legal requirement to wear face coverings whilst on site, it is strongly advised and we ask that you do so, at least for now.

Uniform:

Full school uniform is expected. Please ensure that you check that all items are labelled. School uniform is important and application of our policy needs to be consistent. Earrings are not permitted and should be removed for school. Pupils will attend school in their PE kit on PE days (See below).

We found that providing a consistent stationery pack for each pupil last year worked very well and we are continuing this during the academic year 2021-22. Therefore, there is no need for pupils to bring pencil cases into school. Children **may** bring in a reading book – of course reading books are available in class, but books can be brought back and forth from home now.

Medication

Please ensure that necessary medication such as EpiPens, Piriton and Asthma pumps are bought in to school with your child on Monday. It is vital that this is done for Safeguarding reasons. A new medical form must be filled out before handing the medication in to the school office. For other medicine e.g. Calpol, again a medical form must be completed. If you have any queries please email the school office.

Clubs

A programme of enrichment clubs is being finalised and clubs will commence from Monday 13th September. I will write to you next week with the clubs offer.

Swimming and PE

Pupils should come into school on PE days in their PE kit. N.B. There will be no PE session for Y4 on Monday 6th owing to Skillz staff training.

The PE day for each class is:

Monday	Year 4 (Not first week)
Tuesday	Rec Year 1
Wednesday	Year 2 Year 3 Year 6
Thursday	Year 5

Swimming recommences this term. The classes swimming this half term at Years One and Two. Swimming commences from Monday 13th September and a separate letter will be sent to parents of pupils in Y1 & 2 next week.

Have a lovely weekend – it looks like the sun we have missed in August may well start to peep out just as we return to school.

God Bless

Dermot Mooney