



16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Hello

We are all pleased that, as of September 2020, we are able to welcome everyone back and our new Nursery and Reception families can join us. Our term starts Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for Year 1 and Year 2 children. Reception and Nursery have already received information about their start times and dates. This letter will share key information about our plans for September and the changes we have in place. We know this is a lot of information to take in before the summer but please do not worry, we will send you a reminder of the information and any further details towards the end of the holidays.

We had a very successful and positive re-opening in June, for a significant number of our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children. I hope this reassures you that the team is used to managing all the government requirements for schools opening safely as well as ensuring it is still a happy and purposeful place for the children to learn and be with friends.

Currently, the Fruit in Schools scheme is not in operation so you are welcome to send your child to school with a small, mid-morning snack pot. It may contain fruit, vegetables or breadsticks but can we please remind you **not** to pack cereal bars or anything containing nuts or sesame. Please send snacks in a clearly named, sealed pot. Breakfast Club will resume on Monday 7 September. We will send out more information about how to book your sessions, in the next few days.

We are now used to working in bubbles, which helps minimise possible transmission by limiting numbers of children mixing across the school, for example, at playtimes or assemblies. Below is an outline of the key things we will have in place, in September, to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe. We hope it will help you get a feel for some of the changes and how you can support us with them. Attached to the email is a little social story to help you talk to your child, to help them too.

## Key Things for You to Know:



### The Bubbles:

- In Year 1 and Year 2 we will be working in class bubbles. For most of the day, the children will be in their own class bubble but they will get to see friends in other classes at play times (at a distance).
- In Nursery and Reception we will be working in year group bubbles to enable the children to access the relevant Early Years curriculum.
- There are zoned play areas for each class with their own equipment which they won't need to share with any other bubble.
- Social distancing will be taught and encouraged in an age appropriate way and the guidance does recognise that some young children will find this difficult.
- We will operate a staggered break and lunchtime.

## Other Safety Measures:

- We will have increased hand washing routines. Children will need to wash their hands on arrival, when they leave school and at regular points during the day (including snack and lunchtime).
- We will teach the children about good hygiene with 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.
- We will use our bubble resources to support and encourage social distancing in an age-appropriate way.

## Key Things for Families to Know:

- We are minimising the number of people who come into school, alongside children, to only essential visitors and staff.
- We will be maintaining a staggered start and collection system. Our current system has worked well. We are adjusting some of the timings, by 5 minutes, to support the whole school returning and to work with the junior schools staggered systems.
  - **Girls** to arrive at 8.40am and collected at 2.40pm.
  - **Boys** to arrive at 8.50am and collected at 2.50pm.
  - **Junior schools** - we are asking for those with junior school siblings to arrive at 9am and be collected at 3pm. We hope this will help the significant number of families with children at two settings.
  - We will work flexibly with the staggered times and keep reviewing this to ensure it is working well to reduce the number of parents and children arriving on site at any one time.
- Only one parent/carer should come to school to drop off and collect a child.
- To help reduce the number of people entering and leaving from the same points we have allocated entrance/exit points for each class.
  - For Nursery please use the small Nursery gate (to the Nursery garden) located on the pedestrian path to the main school office.
  - For Salhouse class please use the gate to the left of Nursery (on Arden Grove).
  - For Filby, Ranworth and Wroxham classes please use the Foxcotte gate.
  - For Hickling and Barton please use the gate to the main playground (near the bike & scooter rack).
  - Please do not gather, in groups, at entrances or outside class doors.
- Please say good-bye at drop off and head straight off.
- Maintain social distancing at all times and in all areas of our school.
- If using public transport, government advice is to use face covering unless advised otherwise.
- We have increased the level and frequency of all our cleaning routines during the school day in classrooms, toilets, for school resources and equipment and we have enhanced cleaning at the end of every day.

## To keep the school staff safe:

- Please do not cross the marking by the outside class doors to keep a safe distance.
- Please do not huddle around the doors whilst waiting – use the space to spread out.
- Only contact the office via email / phone. The office team will miss seeing you too but please only come to the office if it is an emergency.



**To keep all of the children and staff safe:**

- Do not send your child to school if they are showing possible signs of the virus. Follow the government guidelines and let us know.
- If your child shows symptoms or becomes unwell, you will be asked to collect them immediately.
- Anyone displaying Covid- 19 related symptoms will be asked to stay away from school until tested or clear of any isolation period.
- Please ensure we have the most up-to-date contact number for you.

**Lunches:**

- All children will be provided with a school packed lunch or a home pack lunch can be brought in if preferred.
- Children will be eating lunch in their classrooms.

**Curriculum:**

- Our full and exciting curriculum will take place. However, we recognise the importance of a transition period for the first few weeks as the children settle into school after such a long period away.
- We will focus on well-being and supporting children with feelings and questions that may arise.
- We will be using Tapestry across the whole school to keep in contact with you and share learning.
- On PE days, your child can come to school wearing their PE kit for the day. Children can wear tracksuit bottoms and trainers on PE days, as we will try to make use of outside space, whilst the weather allows. We shall let you know your child's PE days but you will not need a PE kit for the first couple of weeks.

**Attendance:**

- We are all looking forward to a more familiar routine and having children back at school. Attendance requirements are back to normal for all statutory aged children in school so children must attend school every day.

We hope you find the above information helpful. Do not hesitate to contact us on 01603 404553 or [office@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@ardengrove.norfolk.sch.uk) if you have any questions. Any changes or additions to this information will be sent to you via email as soon as we are able to.

Finally, we want to wish you a wonderful summer. We are all really looking forward to meeting our new families and seeing familiar faces, obviously at a socially safe distance!

Take care  
Sarah Waterfield

