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14th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Return to school in September

We are really pleased to be able to welcome all of our pupils back to school on Thursday 3rd September.

We have used the latest government guidance to support us to create extensive plans and risk assessments. We believe that our carefully thought out plans will enable us to open up to all our pupils in a manner that we believe is as safe as it can be for both our children and staff.

During lockdown, we have operated school with children and staff grouped into bubbles. We will continue with this system although the size of the bubbles will be increased to incorporate each class as a whole and their relevant adults.

As the safety of pupils and staff is our prime concern, we have had to make a number of changes to the normal school day. The start and finish times of the school day have been staggered for each year group and we have also condensed the length of our school day (on a temporary basis) by **shortening our lunch break by 5 minutes for KS2 children**. We have also removed the afternoon break. Teaching time will remain unchanged and children will access the same amount of learning as they usually would.

Pupils and staff will not be able to mix between bubbles for the time being which means that lunches will be eaten in classrooms and assemblies will take place in classrooms via a video link. Breaks for each bubble will be staggered at different times and each bubble will be allocated an area within our outdoor space. This will enable us to ensure our systems and procedures work to keep both staff, pupils and the wider community safe.

Lessons will resume as normal and the children will be taught a wide curriculum. We recognise that being away from school for an extended time may mean the transition back into school will be more difficult for some children. In the early days we will have a strong emphasis on supporting children's wellbeing and assessing their individual needs - both socially and academically- so that they can make progress in all areas of their development and learning.

At the present time, we have the following plans in place:

Start and end of the school day	In order to keep children and their families' safe, we will be having a staggered start and finish to the school day. We need everyone to maintain social distancing where possible. The start of the day: School staff will be at all gates and around the school grounds when children are dropped off at school. Pupils in <u>Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2</u> should enter our site via the Station Road entrance at their designated time. One accompanying adult may bring them onto the school grounds. The children will be taken into the classroom by a member of the school staff. Adults accompanying children onto the school grounds must leave the site via the gate to Spring Gardens.
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Pupils in Y3 should enter our site via the South Avenue entrance at the designated time. One accompanying adult may bring them onto the school grounds where they will be collected by school staff and taken inside. Parents should exit via the Spring Garden gate. We ask that from Monday 14th September, Y3 children say goodbye to parents at the school gate.

Pupils in Y4, Y5 and Y6 should enter the site via the South Avenue entrance at the designated time. Parents should say goodbye to the children at the gate and children should walk onto the school site by themselves. They will be met at the gate or on the playground by a member of school staff.

The end of the day:

School staff will be at all gates and around the school grounds when children are collected from school.

If your child is in Nursery or Reception, they must be collected at their finish time from the gate listed below.

If your child is in Y1 or Y2, one adult will be able to enter the school site via Station Road at the designated time and wait at an allocated point. As normal, a member of school staff will send the children to their parent/carer. You must then exit the school site via the gate on Spring Gardens. We expect that parents will adhere to social distancing guidelines both in the school grounds and around the school gates.

If your child is in Y3, Y4, Y5 or Y6, a member of school staff will take them to the gate on South Avenue at their designated finish time. You should collect your child from this point.

If you have more than one child to drop off/pick up, you may have to leave the site to walk around again for the appropriate drop off/collection time/point. We apologise that this may cause some inconvenience but it is necessary to maintain safety.

We ask that you adhere to guidelines around social distancing when you drop children at school or collect them at the end of the school day.

We have been able to practise staggered starts and finishes while we have had reduced numbers of pupils on site but in scaling this up we ask that you support us by ensuring that you are school at the correct time.

Entry to the school building will continue to be limited to staff and pupils only. If you wish to pass on a message, please do so via email to admin@bawtrymayflower.doncaster.sch.uk or by a telephone call.

Please see below table for the timings and entry/exit gates for each class.

Class	Start time	Gate	Finish time	Gate
Nursery	9:10	Station Road (FS entrance)	12:10	Station Road (FS entrance)
Reception	9:05	Station Road (FS entrance)	3:05	Station Road (FS entrance)
Year 1/2A Mrs Davies	8:50	Station Road	2:50	Spring Gardens
Year 1/2 B Miss Taylor	8:55	Station Road	2:55	Spring Gardens
Year 1/2 C Miss Walker	9:00	Station Road	3:00	Spring Gardens

	Year 3/4 A Miss Walsham	9:00	South Avenue	3:05	South Avenue
	Year 3/4 B Mrs Pickersgill & Mrs Ronan	9:05	South Avenue	3:10	South Avenue
	Year 5/6A Mrs Parkes	8:45	South Avenue	2:50	South Avenue
	Year 5/6B Mrs Wood	8:50	South Avenue	2:55	South Avenue
	Year 5/6C Miss Dunn	8:55	South Avenue	3:00	South Avenue

Hygiene and handwashing	<p>Regular handwashing is essential to control coronavirus. Please ensure that your children wash their hands before leaving home to come to school and again when they arrive home at the end of the day.</p> <p>Children will use hand sanitiser on their way into the school building and will be sent to wash their hands once they are in the classroom.</p> <p>They will be given very regular reminders and opportunities for handwashing during the day. Hand sanitiser is also available in classrooms and your child will be expected to use this on entering the classroom in the morning and after break times.</p> <p>The rules of 'Catch it, bin it, kill it!' and coughing into elbows (rather than into the air) will be reinforced.</p> <p>The classrooms and high traffic areas will be cleaned during the school day.</p>
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Clubs	<p>Unfortunately we will not be able to offer Buddies breakfast and after school club (at least to begin with) as this would require the mixing of pupils from different bubbles. We hope that as the government guidance evolves and the virus becomes less prevalent, we will be able to review this and open Buddies as soon as it is safe to do so.</p> <p>We are not able to offer the usual range of after school clubs from the start of September. We will continue to monitor the situation and will re-open school clubs as soon as it is deemed to be safe enough for children and staff.</p>
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Classrooms and Equipment	<p>Excess furniture and resources have been removed from classrooms in order to maximise the space for pupils to be spread out as much as is possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be issued with their own writing equipment etc. in order to minimise the sharing of resources. • Children should only bring a coat, lunch box (if having packed lunch) and a water bottle. • Children will need to bring a water bottle to school every day. This must be taken home at the end of the day. Please label this with their name in order to minimise shared contact. • Children must not bring extra equipment/toys to school. • Uniform should be worn as per usual school requirements. • On PE days your child should come to school wearing their PE kit to minimise things they need to bring to school. • In KS1 and KS2, children will be seated initially in rows facing forwards (as per current guidance). Adults will, where possible, try to maintain a distance from the children.
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Inhalers	<p>If your child has an inhaler, it must be brought to school on the first day in a plastic box labelled with your child's name. This will then be kept in your child's class.</p>
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Early Years Classrooms	<p>The Nursery and Reception unit will be split into areas of learning. Following the government guidance, there is no requirement to socially distance within each classroom bubble. However, we will encourage children to spread out and will limit the number of children in each area. In order to enable us to follow strict cleaning measures, we have chosen to limit resources to those which can be frequently cleaned. Children within the bubble will share resources with the exception of playdough and messy play. Individual resources will be given for these activities.</p>
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Social Distancing	Particularly at the start of term, children will be given a reminder at the start of the school day, alongside very regular reminders, about the need for social distancing. We expect that older children will be able to understand and adhere to keeping apart from each other and staff. We do understand that social distancing cannot be guaranteed as children are children!
Cleaning	Our cleaning staff have been working through the partial closure to ensure that school is a safe environment in which to learn and work. Cleaning takes place in the morning, during the day and at the end of each school day. All school staff have a cleaning routine to follow throughout the day and high touch areas such as classroom surfaces, handles, light switches etc. are cleaned at very regular intervals.
Breaks	All breaks will be at staggered times. Children will remain with their class groups during break times in order to minimise contact and potential cross contamination.
Lunches and Lunchtimes	<p>To begin with, we will not be providing a hot choice school meal in order to keep social contact to a minimum as well as removing the need for sitting in the communal dining area. Meals can be purchased in the usual manner with children being given a packed 'grab bag' lunch from the school kitchen. The contents of the grab bag will vary and we will be sending a menu as soon as it is finalised by the cook. Lunches will be eaten in the classroom. Lunchtimes will be staggered as mentioned above.</p> <p>Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will continue to be provided with a packed lunch.</p> <p>Pupils in Reception and KS1 who are eligible for Universal Free School Meals will also be provided with a packed lunch.</p> <p>As usual, if children are not having a school meal, they will need to bring a packed lunch from home. This must be brought to school in a washable lunchbox. It must be taken home and washed on a daily basis.</p>
Illness	<p>Any child complaining of, or displaying, coronavirus symptoms will be cared for by a member of staff from their bubble but will need to self-isolate in a designated area and parents/carers will be contacted to pick up immediately in order to minimise contact with others. <u>Please ensure that your emergency contact details are up to date and that you have adequate additional arrangements in place if you are unable to pick up your child straight away.</u></p> <p><u>If your child or someone in your household is unwell or shows any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, then it is essential that you do not send your child to school under any circumstances.</u> It is essential for the safety of the whole community that children and adults who display symptoms stay away from school in order to prevent the spread of the virus to others. Where your child displays symptoms, they should self-isolate for 7 days and all fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. If your child is displaying symptoms, you are advised to arrange for them to be tested. <u>Please let us know urgently if this is the case</u> so that we can seek advice from Public Health England and follow guidance which states: <i>'where a child tests positive, the rest of the class/group should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.'</i> (DfE Guidance).</p> <p>If a child's test comes back as negative, they can return to school when they feel well enough to do so. They should not return to school if they still feel unwell or have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19). This comes directly from guidance from the government which states that <i>'They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu - in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.'</i></p>
What you can do to help us prepare your child	<p>Please tell your child that we are all looking forward to having them back in school - we have missed them!</p> <p>Please explain to your child that there is nothing to worry about - we have done everything we can to keep everyone as safe as possible.</p> <p>Please talk to your child about things that will be the same and what will be different in school.</p> <p>Please teach your child to wash their hands thoroughly.</p> <p>Please teach your child the "Catch it, bin it, kill it" procedure.</p> <p>Please talk to your child about the importance of not touching others and the need to keep apart wherever possible.</p>

	<p>Please use the school blog and the parent section of the school website to access resources to support you when talking to your child about their return to school.</p>
<p>Q & A</p>	<p><u><i>Does my child have to attend school in September?</i></u> Yes, the Government have set out the expectation that all children must return to school from September.</p> <p><u><i>How will you keep my child safe?</i></u> We have put measures in place to keep our community as safe as possible. We cannot guarantee that your child will not become unwell at any time.</p> <p><u><i>Why is everything so structured?</i></u> We have carefully thought through and risk assessed the site, the movement of people around school, the timings and the use of resources in order to minimise the risk of spreading infection.</p> <p><u><i>Why are you restricting the number of adults on the school site?</i></u> In order to reduce the risk of spreading infection across the wider community.</p> <p><u><i>Why is there a one-way system?</i></u> So that we can ensure that parents are not passing each other on the way into and out of school.</p> <p><u><i>What happens if I am late to drop off or collect my child from school?</i></u> We ask that you ensure that you are on time in the morning and at the end of the school day. If you are going to be late, we need you to contact the school office. Please be aware that we do not have the facilities for children to wait for parents in the entrance as we have done in the past.</p> <p><u><i>Why can't my child spend some time with their previous teacher?</i></u> We thought very carefully about the transition to new classes but our risk assessment showed that the risk of cross contamination was increased if teachers moved across bubbles.</p> <p><u><i>Can I provide hand sanitiser for my child?</i></u> No. All classrooms have supplies of hand sanitiser. Handwashing will be the first choice for hand hygiene.</p> <p><u><i>Can I send tissues into school for my child?</i></u> No. Tissues will be provided by school.</p> <p><u><i>What happens if I can't collect my child immediately from school if they are ill?</i></u> We know that this can be difficult if you are at work; however, we would ask that you support us with this in order to protect the school staff, children and the wider community. If you know you might not be able to collect straight away, please ensure that you have alternative arrangements in place for collection.</p> <p><u><i>Can I call into the school office to drop something off or meet my child's teacher?</i></u> No. The site is closed except to essential visits which are pre-arranged. Please email us if you have any questions.</p> <p><u><i>I am anxious about my child returning to school. What can I do?</i></u> Feeling anxious about this is normal. Everyone has felt some level of anxiety about returning to normal aspects of life after lockdown. Please know that we have done everything we can do to make school as safe as possible for everyone. You can help us to keep school as safe as possible by supporting us in our efforts to maintain social distancing and limit the number of adults in school. We have had an increasing number of children in school over the past few weeks and they have all adapted quickly to the new routines and they have enjoyed their time in school. Please talk to your children about the positive aspects of school and the fun they will have - we don't want them to feel anxious about school.</p> <p><u><i>Can my child wear a face mask to school?</i></u> The current guidelines advise against children and school staff wearing face masks.</p>

Hopefully the information above will answer your questions about returning to school. We will contact you just before the children return to school with further information and to remind you of the new procedures. It may be that as September comes closer, government guidance may change and we will need to make changes to our plans. If this is the case, we will of course let you know.

Thank you for all of your support during these difficult and challenging times.

As always, keep yourself and your family safe and well.

Regards,

Mrs Jenkinson (Headteacher)

