Tuesday 1st September 2020

**Returning to School in September**

Dear Parents,

                        I hope you have had an enjoyable and restful summer. All the staff are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on the 7th September. Returning to school and a new year group after a long break can be both exciting and daunting for our pupils. This will of course have been amplified by the prolonged absence from school for the majority of the children and the uncertainty and anxiety of the current situation. Therefore I have included some suggestions re how to make this transition from home to school as smooth as possible. Mr Wilson will also be sending further information regarding the reopening of the school this week.

Advanced Preparation

▪ Drive or walk past the school this week, so they become familiar with seeing it again. Discuss where they will be dropped off and picked up at the end of the day (and by whom) on their first day back. Re-watch the videos posted by their phase leader and new teacher on Google Classroom.

▪ Try to have a bit of space between you and your child before going back to school, to lessen the impact of the separation on the first day.

COVID-19 Considerations

▪ Make your child aware that school may look and feel a little different from usual during this time. Help your child prepare for the possible changes by practising them at home, e.g. washing hands frequently, cleaning toys, staying apart where possible.

▪ Take your child on a few short trips before going back to school if they have not been out of the house very much during the ‘lockdown’ period.

Talk about what will be the same when your child returns to school, such as their friends, many of the staff and uniform. Focusing on this first will be reassuring and help reduce their anxiety.

Discuss how the school environment will be a little different, such as the position of desks in classrooms, smaller groups in the playground.

Preparing for the First Day

▪ Remind your child about their class teacher’s name and how much they are looking forward to seeing them.

▪ Talk about positive things about going back to school e.g. seeing friends, teachers, playing in the playground.

▪ Talk to them about how they are feeling. Tell them it is normal to feel both excited and anxious and lots of children feel that way.

▪ Give them their favourite breakfast, lunch (if packed lunch) and tea on their first day.

▪ Do whatever makes you happy and calm as a family the evening before returning to school, and the evening after the first day back.

▪ Don’t ask too many questions when they come out of school. They will need time to process what has happened during the day.

The Morning Routine

▪ Establish back to school routines a few days before it happens, e.g. going to bed a bit earlier and getting up earlier.

▪ Encourage your child to prepare the night before by asking them to pack their school bag and get their uniform ready.

**Start of day/end of day times**

**Nursery**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

AM                                      8:45                                     11:30

PM                                      12:45                                     3:30

**Reception**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

RB                                      8:30-8:40                             3:00

RF                                      8:40- 8:50                            3:10

RL                                      8:50-9:00                             3:20

**Year 1**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

1J                                   8.30-8.40                         3.00pm

1D                                  8.40-8.50                        3.10pm

1S                                  8:50-9:00                        3.20pm

**Year 2**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

2S                                  8.30-8.40                          3.00pm

2M (Ms Moody)         8.40-8.50                         3.10pm

2RM (Ms Myers)     8:50-9:00                         3.20pm

**Year 3**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

3J                                   8.30-8.40                         3.00pm

3L                                  8.40-8:50                         3.10pm

3D                                 8:50-9.00                         3.20pm

**Year 4**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

4CF                                 8.30-8.40                         3.00pm

4M                                 8.40-8:50                         3.10pm

4C                                  8:50-9.00                         3.20pm

**Year 5**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

5BD                                8.30-8.40                           3.00pm

5P                                   8.40-8:50                           3.10pm

5CM                               8:50-9.00                           3.20pm

**Year 6**

Class                              start time                       Finish time

6A                                  8.30-8.40                           3.00pm

6P                                  8.40-8:50                           3.10pm

6C                                 8:50-9.00                           3.20pm

Yours sincerely,

Louise Calder