



22nd July 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Well what a year it's been! We started off so well in September with everyone back in school. We managed to get to October before the first bubble had to close and then we have been on a very rocky roller coaster ever since; with children self-isolating, bubbles closing and of course the national lockdown in January. For some children and staff, the year has not ended in a happy way as they are not in school to enjoy their final days with their friends; especially our Year 6 children.

I just want to express my thanks, once again, for all the support you have given the staff and myself over the year. It cannot have been easy for many of you juggling working from home as well as getting to grips with remote learning for your children. I am sure I would have found it just as challenging as some of you if I'd had to do it with my own children!

Your children have been absolutely amazing throughout the year; showing immense positivity, resilience and determination to do their best in whatever situation they have found themselves in. I am, as I and sure you are, extremely proud of them.

I also want to say a huge thank you to all the staff who have been equally as amazing. They have been so supportive, patient and resilient as we grappled with ever changing guidance, new ways of working, bubble closure, isolating, lockdowns – all done with a smile on their face – and they are still smiling!

September brings more changes for us again in school! The Government's current guidance takes us until September 4th so whilst I will outline in this letter what will be in place in September, it may well change over the holidays but we will keep you updated at the end of the holidays if it does.

Earlier this term, we surveyed all our parents and staff about what had worked well over the last year and we have taken on board all the feedback.

Soft Open and Soft Close

This has worked extremely well and has contributed to helping to ease some of the parking problems on Cherry Tree Rise. This will remain in place in September, although we are adjusting the times slightly.

Soft Open

Nursery – 8.30 – 9.00am

Reception – Year 6 – 8.45 – 9.00am

Soft Close

Nursery – 3.15pm

Reception – Year 6 – 3.00 – 3.15pm

Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform (including footwear and P.E kit) in September.

Nursery (optional), All other years
Grey trousers (short or long)
Grey skirt or pinafore dress
White shirt/blouse or white polo shirt
V-neck or crew neck royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with Long Lee Logo
White or grey socks/tights
Black shoes or all black trainers
White/Coloured sandals in Summer – to be worn with socks
Summer dress (check or stripe) in blue and white

P.E. Days

Please continue to send your child to school in their P.E. kit on the days they have P.E. The actual days will be communicated with you in September as they are all different.

Masks

These will not be compulsory outside and will be up to you if you want to continue to wear them. In school, we will continue to wear masks and ask that if parents come into school they also wear a mask in the communal areas. This is because we have staff members who are not yet vaccinated or who have only had their first vaccine.

One Way System

In September, we will revert to having both gates open for entrance and exit to school.

However, some of you have preferred the one-way system. Therefore, we will be opening the Reception and Nursery gates to allow those parents who prefer not to come back around the path to be able to exit the school in this way. This will be a one-way system with entrance by the Reception classes, through the Nursery/Reception playground and exit through the gate by Nursery. Please do not use this as a short cut to get from the Nursery/Year 2 area around to the rest of school. Please use the main path.

Handwashing/Sanitising

We will continue to ensure the children are washing hands/sanitizing on a regular basis. Our cleaning team will also continue to work during the day cleaning the main touch points around school.

Classroom Entrances/Exits

Nursery – from the Nursery classroom door

Reception – through Berry Class door

Year 1 – through Willow and Birch classrooms

Year 2 – through the cloakroom or Horse Chestnut door

Year 3 – through the door up the steps towards Year 4 – please wait in the playground to collect your child

Year 4 – through the door up the steps towards Year 4 – please wait in the playground to collect your child

Year 5 – the door at the bottom of the steps - please wait in the playground to collect your child

Year 6 – their own classroom doors - please wait in the playground to collect your child

Please note the only change is for Year 3. We are reverting back to where they used to enter and exit school. This will be kept under review and may change if necessary.

Lines of Communication

Our main lines of communication will continue to be through text messages, newsletters/Long Lee APP, phone calls and Class Dojo. Always speak to your child's class teacher, in the first instance, as they know your child really well. Mrs Holland our Deputy Headteacher will be over seeing Year 3 & 4, Mrs Hall - Years 5 & 6, Miss Buckley – EYFS and Mrs Rutter – Years 1 & 2. Please speak to one of them if you still have concerns or any queries which cannot be answered by your child's class teacher.

Staffing

Congratulations to Mr Balmforth who will be getting married this summer. We wish him a wonderful wedding day and the best for the future. Our new EYFS Leader, Miss Buckley, will also be getting married this summer and again we wish her our good wishes too.

Bubbles/ Track & Trace

The current guidance from the Government for school is that they no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in bubbles. From September, many things we used to do but have had to put on hold over the last 18 months will resume again such as; assemblies, trips etc.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Please stay safe over the holidays and continue to follow the guidance around testing and isolating.

Once again, thank you for all your support over what has been an extremely challenging year. We hope you all have a fabulous summer holiday; whatever you are doing. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 7th September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Holdsworth
Headteacher



Tel: 01535 603868
Headteacher: Mrs A Campbell
Email: administrator@footprintsfed.com



Tel: 01274 582514
Headteacher: Mrs J Wilkinson
Email: office@glenaireprimary.co.uk



Tel: 01535 603986
Headteacher: Mrs S Holdsworth
Email: office@footprintsfed.com