



*Ready, Respectful, and Resilient.*

## Update – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your patience, support and kind words as we have worked through our plan and preparation for the new lockdown. We still await further guidance from the Government, DfE and Local Authority but have devised a plan for those in school and those learning remotely at this time, in-line with the current guidance and reflecting the current staff-pupil ratios. Should we receive further guidance or see a significant change in staff-pupil ratios, the plan below may need to change to reflect this, but I will keep you informed of any changes as soon as I can.

From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, and in-line with current guidance, the plan is as follows:

### **Critical Workers**

If you are a critical worker then your child is eligible for a place in school – this does **not** mean they have to take it. The safest place for your child is at home so we ask that you only consider using us if you have no option. If your child is coming to school, they do **not** need to be in every day – just the days you are needed at work. Furthermore, the children in school will be learning the same as the children working from home.

We still await guidance on whether we need to limit the number of children in a class/bubble so our plan for critical workers could still change.

At present, your children will be taught in their own class by their own class teacher (dependent on staffing levels). Start and finish times for each class remain the same as they have been.

Lunchtime arrangements will be slightly different. Due to different staffing levels at lunchtime, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have lunch in the hall together. Each class will have their own space in the hall and will not mix with one another.

Year 3 and Year 4 will have lunch in a classroom together but will not mix in the class (socially distanced as much as possible) and Year 5 and Year 6 will have lunch in a classroom together but will not mix in the class (again social distanced as much as possible). At this time, the school kitchen will still be open for hot meals.

We also ask that children who are in school wear full school uniform or PE kit (on PE days). Your child's class teacher will let you know which days they have PE via Tapestry or Class Dojo.

Whilst in school, your children will also be expected to follow the hand hygiene rules that have been in place all year.

## Home learning

You child's class teacher will (as much as is possible) ensure that you have the plan for the day by 8:45am (alongside a good morning video message). Your children will be completing the same work as the children in school. Work will be a combination of online instruction through worksheets, videos, clips and live guidance. The children are expected to complete the lessons to the best of their ability using the skills and methods they have been taught. If your child finds a certain lesson difficult or does not understand, then do message the teacher. Please bear in mind that all teachers are teaching full-time, even through this lockdown, but will respond to you as soon as they can. If you want a paper copy of the resources, please let us know and we will get packs printed as soon as is possible.

Communication during this time with your class teacher should be through Tapestry or Class Dojo. If you have not signed up for Tapestry (Willow Class) or Class Dojo (Y1-Y6), please do so this week as this will be the platform used over the next few weeks. If you do not have log-in details, please let the school know. Staff will respond throughout the school day when they can but will log-off of these platforms by 5pm at the latest. If you have any questions, concerns or want to send work back and it is after 5pm, please appreciate that you will get a response the next day. Thank you.

At this time, the live guidance will take the form of a Daily Zoom meeting. Your child's daily Zoom meeting will take place at the same time every day (as much as is possible) and your child's class teacher will send you this information tomorrow (ready for Monday). This session will provide a number of opportunities across the week such as time to share work, listen to stories and address misconceptions that have arisen whilst home learning.

The children at home and at school will also get to see one another on this Zoom meeting. **If you are sending your child into school as a critical worker and DO NOT want your child on the Zoom call in which they will see their classmates at home, please let school know by 3:30pm this Friday (8<sup>th</sup> January).**

Whilst on this daily zoom call, we expect the children to follow particular golden rules.

The online Golden Rules are as follows:

- 1: Where possible, having an adult present or nearby (as this helps to safeguard both staff and children).*
- 2: All zoom calls must take place in a lounge, kitchen, conservatory etc – **not** the child's bedroom.*
- 3: Appropriate clothing must be worn during the call, **not** pyjamas.*
- 4: Children must be respectful of the adult and all other callers.*
- 5: Children must engage with the call and the adults/peers in the same way they do in class.*
- 6: Please start the zoom call with your child's microphone on mute. The class teacher will ask them to unmute when necessary.*

If your child is to take part in our class zoom meetings, they must always follow these Golden Rules. The teacher may have to remove them from the meeting if these rules are not followed.

This daily zoom meeting is a new approach for us and we will be starting it on Monday. There may be a few teething problems as we get this up and running but please support us as we look to build this provision in. If there is a day where we are having problems in school with the Internet and Wi-fi and as a result are unable to do the Zoom, we will try and let you know as soon as possible.

From next week, there will also be opportunities for you to come up to school and change you child's reading book. A letter will follow tomorrow to explain this further.

Finally, I just want to re-iterate how grateful we are for your support during this time. The news of the newest lockdown and its impact on schooling was so sudden and there is so much for us all to consider. Indeed, this is a very testing time for all of us: educators, parents and children so we need to continue encouraging each other and supporting where we can – this is how we will continue to **reach for the stars**.

Stay safe

Lee Christopher