

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year! I hope you have all had a refreshing summer break and that you have enjoyed some precious family time together. The staff have been busy at school getting all the classrooms ready for the children's return on Monday and cannot wait to meet their new classes.

Just a reminder of a few things for the start of the school year:

**Uniform**

A detailed list of uniform can be found on the school website, link below.

<https://bit.ly/3wTMLEn>

Please can you make sure your child is in **full** school uniform, including **plain** black footwear.

For PE days, we are keeping children coming into school in their kits. We will conduct a whole school review in Term 2 to decide if this is what parents want to happen moving forward.

Item	Description	Retailer
White t-shirt	Plain	Any
Shorts	Plain black	Any
Sweatshirt / Hoddie	Plain black	Any
Tracksuit / Jogging bottoms	Plain black	Any
Trainers	Any brand suitable for P.E.	Any

We have had an assortment of colours and logos - this will not be allowed from September. Please come and see us in confidence if you are struggling financially and we can look at each case on an individual basis. Any child consistently wearing a non-uniform PE kit will be provided with the correct

kit to wear whilst in school. Remember that instead of black sweatshirts the school jumper can be worn with black shorts or tracksuit bottoms.

For health and safety purposes, only stud earrings should be worn in school. Hoops or earrings that dangle can get caught during play and rip the earlobe causing permanent damage. If earrings can be removed for PE days that would be great, otherwise we will provide surgical tape to cover as a precaution.

### **Snacks**

From September, only healthy snacks will be allowed in school to be eaten at break. Recently a number of children have been bringing crisps and chocolates. These are fine for lunchboxes but not as a mid morning snack. Healthy snacks include fruit, vegetables or sugar-free fruit bars. Any other snacks will be taken away and returned for children to take home at the end of the day. If your child has a medical condition that requires a carbohydrate snack mid morning, please make an appointment with Lowry Stone to discuss.

### **School timings**

From Monday, the school gates will continue to open at 8.30am. Children in Reception and Years 1 - 6 can arrive anytime between 8.30am and 8.50am. Registration will close at 9am and any child that arrives after this time will be marked as late.

Learning will start at 8.30 am; this will comprise of early morning work and interventions. The Inclusion Team, plus members of the leadership team, will be on the gate each morning and will pass any messages to teachers and support the children coming into school. The staggered start hopefully will be more convenient for parents, prevent cars arriving at the same time putting pressure on parking and allow a bit more flexibility for families in the mornings.

At the end of the day, Years 5 & 6 will leave at 3.10pm and then the school gates will open at 3.15pm for parents to collect children in the other year groups. Again, it was felt that this reduced the number of children leaving at the same time and crossing Holt Road safely.

Can you please let your child's class teacher know if you give permission for your child to walk home from school alone.

### **Meet the Teacher presentations 6th September 2021**

Unfortunately, we have needed to review the way the procedures for our Meet the Teacher sessions take place. Teachers will be stationed on the playground for you to have a chat and introduce yourself to after school. The slideshow presentations will be emailed out for you prior to the meetings so that if you have any questions you will be able to ask. Tea and coffee will be available as we welcome everybody back for the new school year. At 4pm, we will finish the sessions.

### **Covid Updates**

There have been many updates across the summer in regards to measures in schools. Lots of the restrictions in place have been removed but there are still high levels of Covid in the Bovington area. Initially, we will be keeping a form of 'bubbles' but these will not be as defined as before the summer and this will be reviewed in light of local outbreaks. Parents and carers coming into the school must be by appointment/invitation only and masks must be worn.

Children are no longer required to isolate if identified as a close contact, unless contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Instead they will be advised to take a PCR test. There is also no requirement for the child to isolate whilst awaiting the results unless they have tested positive on a LFD test. However as a school we would recommend that children do not attend school until the outcome of the PCR test is known. As you can imagine, the risk of whole class contamination is possible if a child attends school with a positive case. We cannot enforce this, but the staff at school would really welcome your support in keeping the community safe. Work will be provided during this time.

As a school we will keep a close eye on cases and rates in the local area and a contingency plan may need to be put in place to keep our children and families safe. These will be communicated to you if we need to revert back to any of the control measures seen before the summer holidays.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all safely back to school on Monday 6th September.

Sara White (Principal)