

5th March 2021

SPRING 2 TERM

Dear Parents and families,

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 8th March. This has been a difficult start to the year and the return to school will hopefully signal the beginning of a return to some level of normality! Thank you all for your support and commitment to the remote education that has been in place since January. The staff and I have been very impressed by the quality and quantity of school work achieved by children, with your support and encouragement.

This newsletter will set out the Control Measures we have put back in place to reduce the risk of transmission and comply with our risk assessment (available on request from the school office via email), as well as general information and updates on staffing. Many of the Control Measures will be familiar to you from the arrangements we had in place in the Autumn term.

PLANNED DIARY DATES

(Events may be subject to change due to Covid 19)

MARCH

Mon 8th Full reopening of school

Fri 19th Red Nose Day

29th - Fri 9th April - Easter Break

APRIL

Mon 12th Staff training day

Tues 13th Term starts

Weds 21st - Interschool football tournament

CONTROL MEASURES

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products
- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible by
 - distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable
 - grouping children together in 'class bubbles'
 - avoiding contact between groups
 - arranging classrooms with forward facing desks (from Y2 – Y6)
 - staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

- 7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

COVID Reminder

As the COVID-19 situation continues, a reminder that staff, children or parents experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) must not come to school, should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). We can still provide a test if you have difficulty accessing one. In the event of one member of a household experiencing symptoms or testing positive, the whole household would need to self-isolate. During this time, we ask that you **continue to notify school of suspected symptoms and/ or positive tests for COVID** even whilst children are learning remotely, as we are required to report on this daily to the Department for Education.

Start/End of the day

Classes will have staggered start and finish times for the school day, as we had in the Autumn term.

Acorns (Nursery) children should be **brought to and collected from the green gate near the car park.**

Conkers (R/1/2) children and **Oak Trees** (KS2) should be brought to and collected from the Main Entrance gate.

A member of staff will be on duty to see children safely into school.

Parents should NOT enter the school site without prior arrangement.

Class	Start Time	Finish Time
Acorns Nursery	8.55am	11.55am/ 3.10pm
Conkers (R/1/2)	8.50am	3.05pm
Oak Trees (KS2)	8.50am	3.15pm

At the end of the day, children from Conkers and Oak Trees will line up in the playground for their Finish Time to be collected by a parent. Please note, **it is essential that parents keep to these times** to ensure the safety of our school community.

Face Masks

The latest Government guidance says that masks are not required for primary school children in school. Pupils that arrive wearing a face covering must remove it, must wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all pupils), dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before entering the classroom. Staff are required to wear masks in communal areas of school (not classrooms). Visitors are required to wear masks at all times.

Before/After School Club

This will resume from Monday 8th March. Before School Club runs from 7.45am-8.45am, Monday to Friday. After School Club runs from 3.15pm – 5.15pm, Monday to Thursday. Please email Mrs. Kemp to book places. If children are attending the Before or After School Club, parents can enter the site to drop/ collect children at the Main door.

Parents are asked to wear a mask on the school site and maintain 2 metre social distancing.

Attendance Expectations

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from Monday 8th March 2021.

Curriculum

Some changes have been made to the curriculum for the rest of this term and teaching time will be prioritised to assess and address gaps in pupils' knowledge. For pupils in Reception, we will focus initially on gaps in language, phonics, reading and mathematics. For pupils in key stages 1 and 2, we will prioritise identifying gaps in phonics and reading, vocabulary, writing and mathematics. As it has throughout this lockdown period, the curriculum will remain broad, so that pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year.

Update on Peat Rigg KS2 Residential

As you will be aware, Oak Trees class were due to visit the Peat Rigg residential centre in April. Unfortunately, the latest Government guidance for the reopening of schools **advises against all educational visits at this time** and I have no choice but to postpone the residential. We have rearranged the dates to 6th-8th October and we certainly hope to be in a position to go ahead by then! Staff and children will be very disappointed by this as I know it has been eagerly awaited since last year. Staff are keen to hold an alternative event in the Summer term (possibly camping on the school field, if the guidance allows us to hold such events at the time). We very much hope to be able to hold some events that our Year 6 children can participate in before they leave Leavening in the Summer.

PE and Forest School

Forest School will restart when we return to school and children will need to bring their Forest School kit on the correct day (Conkers Class – Wednesdays, Oak Trees Class – Tuesdays). PE will take place on Fridays and, **for the next three weeks, we ask that children come to school on Fridays in their PE kit**, to reduce changing times and possible risks of transmission. After Easter, children should bring their PE kit into school as normal.

Lunch Times

A temporary new menu for hot meals and vegetarian options will be available from Monday 8th March. School meals cost £2.50 (children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 will continue to be entitled to a free school meal). Children will continue to only be allowed to play with others in their ‘class bubbles’, not mixing with other bubbles. They will use their own playground equipment. Older children will be encouraged to keep their distance within their bubble.

Other After School Clubs

All extra-curricular clubs (except Before and After School Club) will be suspended for the rest of this term. This will be reviewed after Easter.

Bringing items from home

Pupils can bring essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, bags in to school. Resources such as reading books can be shared after they have been left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics). Please can children bring back all reading books, work books and borrowed IT equipment on Monday, as these will be needed in school.

Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March

We will be joining in the fun of Red Nose Day – please wear something red and ‘Share a Smile’! Details on how to donate to follow.

Staffing Update

Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, we have made some temporary changes to the staffing for the rest of this term.

Acorns Nursery	Conkers (YR/1/2)	Oak Trees (Y3/4/5/6)
Miss Hannah Cooke	Mrs Milson (Mon, Tues, Wed) Mrs Callaghan (Thurs) Mrs Stockill and Mrs Bedford (Fri)	Mrs Price (Mon – Thurs) Mrs Stockill and Mrs Bedford (Fri)
Mrs Bennett (Mon, Thurs, Fri) Mrs Bedford (Wed)	Mrs Smith Mrs Peel Mrs Jacques Mrs Bennett	Mrs Bedford Mrs Hyman (temporary)

Thank you again for your support - the staff and I have appreciated your kind words over the last couple of months! We look forward to seeing you all on Monday!

As always, my very best wishes

Mrs. Louise Callaghan

Acting Headteacher