



Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Term 2021 – Headteacher Update #1

Happy New Year! I do hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable time. We are looking forward to seeing all the children back in school tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January 2021).

There has obviously been a lot of talk in the media about schools opening or not opening. I can confirm that our school will be open as planned tomorrow, with the staggered start timings from the Autumn term continuing, and all children are expected to return. The Government has published a list of Local Authorities in Tier 4 where they feel primary schools should not reopen, and although Surrey is in Tier 4, it is not on that list. Therefore, our start to term will begin as planned on 5th January.



Children who are deemed “clinically extremely vulnerable” will have received a letter from their doctor confirming this, and should not return on 5th January. With regard to children whose parents are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable, the DfE’s guidance (published on 24th December) states “*Children and young people whose parents or carers are clinically extremely vulnerable can continue to go to school.*”

The confirmation that Surrey primary schools will open as usual will come as a relief to some families whilst creating anxiety to others. To those who feel anxious, please be assured that we are rigorously following the risk assessments and infection control measures laid down by the DfE, and will continue to keep these under review, following Government guidance. As a school we are committed to doing whatever we can to protect children and staff whilst doing our very best to deliver learning within the Government expectations.

Following the cases of Covid in the school before Christmas we have reviewed our risk assessment measures and beefed up our procedures in key areas. A big focus has been on further restrictions on crossing Bubbles by children and staff. In assemblies tomorrow we will remind children about ‘HandsFaceSpace’, but please do reinforce this message at home as well (especially amongst the older children).

Thank you for continuing to wear face masks and distance on the playground at pick-up. Please also do so outside the school at drop-off/pick-up. Thank you also for your cooperation in not accessing the school site or visiting the school office – these restrictions will continue for the time being.



Please do also monitor your child's health carefully. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- (i) a high temperature
- (ii) a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- (iii) a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you have any of these symptoms, get a test to check if you have coronavirus and stay at home until you get your result. I appreciate that some people are asymptomatic or show different symptoms but still give a positive test result. Please do keep your child at home if they show general signs of being unwell.

Last term, as you know, we had to enact our Home Learning Contingency plan. Following this we have reviewed our contingency plan and made some changes. A new version will be posted on the school website this week should you wish to look at it.

We are very mindful that school opening is potentially a changing situation, and the Government may make changes to their plans which we will then have to implement (and of course Mr Johnson PM is addressing the nation this evening at 8pm). However, until that point, we have to work with the current expectations i.e. BJS is open for business, having made changes to our procedures following the Covid cases last term.

Thank you for your ongoing support; this is a particularly challenging context for everyone, and your kind words and support mean a great deal.

Take care

Kind regards



Richard Catchpole
Headteacher

