

We Can And We Will

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe that this is the final week of the academic year and what a year it has turned out to be! During the last four months we have shared a journey through some very strange times but I am pleased to say that it seems like we can now look forward to September with greater confidence and increased certainty. Since lockdown, we have been led by Government guidance to ensure that school has been, and will continue to be a safe and secure environment for all of our pupils.

On **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** we will invite all pupils in KS1 and KS2 back into school to start a new academic year. This will be on a mandatory attendance basis with all previous expectations in terms of safeguarding applied. As you will appreciate school has been subject to some operational changes in relation to the ongoing pandemic, some of which will remain for the coming year.

To minimise the number of people accessing the school site at any one time, we have introduced staggered arrival times and finish times, as detailed below and we will continue to use one way systems into school. Parents and Carers will be asked to make appointments if they need to discuss their child with school but on most occasions these discussions will happen via telephone. Class Dojo will still be available for messaging class teachers and they will use this in the same way. The staggered start and finish times are shown in the table below. You already know your child's class from previous communications. We understand that families dropping off and picking up siblings may not be able to stick exactly to these times and although we can be flexible with the morning drop-offs, we ask that children are picked up at the specified times for their year group at the end of each day.

Year group	Start Time	Finish Time	Entrance /Exit
EYFS – FS2	9.15am	2.45pm	EYFS side door
Y1	9:00am	3:00pm	EYFS side door
Y1/2	9.00am	3:00pm	Through the car park and onto the yard
Y3/4	8.40am	3.10pm	Through the car park and onto the yard
Y5/6	8.45am	3.15pm	Through the car park and onto the yard

Staff will be waiting in the designated areas to meet and greet children and will take them into school.

Unfortunately, parents will not be able to accompany their children into school.

At the end of the school day, teachers will bring the children out to the designated area for parents to collect.

Covid-19 secure measures such as rigorous handwashing will remain in place to reduce the risk of transmission along with other strategies such as, in the first instance, each class becoming a protected bubble to minimise the likelihood of transmission. Class bubble integrity will be key along with reduced mobility across school.

We will follow the Public Health England and Local Health Protection Team guidance in dealing with suspected and positive cases of Covid-19 and ask for your support in adhering to these measures. Below is a more specific explanation of what the Autumn Term will look like.

## Autumn Term

### EYFS transition

**Week 1/2:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September - Children in F1 and F2 that are new to our school will be given a drop in time to meet the teacher and look around the EYFS unit

**Week 2:** F2 children will attend school from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September and will go home after lunch time – 9.20 -11.45 each day this week.

F1 children will begin their am or pm sessions on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**Week 3:** F1 and F2 commencement of normal timetable

**Breakfast club** – this will not be in operation as we start the term. We plan to open this provision as soon as we can safely do so and once children are back and settled in school. We understand the importance of this provision, especially for our working parents and we will aim to start this as soon as is possible but we want to make sure that it is safe for all children and staff. So that we can support Covid secure practice, we will now ask for families to pre-book breakfast club. This provision will remain free to those children eligible for free school meals, for all others the cost will remain at 50p per day. So that we can begin to plan for this, if your child is attending from F1 to Y6 and you think you will need breakfast provision when we begin this service, please send an email to [enquiries@eastdene.org](mailto:enquiries@eastdene.org) by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September explaining which children the provision would be for, their classes and the days you would need breakfast club provision. We will send out a further letter about breakfast club once we return to school and when we have a clearer picture of numbers in each year group.

**Lunchtimes** – these will look different in the new academic year. For the first three weeks we will be serving a reduced menu but this will still include hot and cold options, these can be ordered in the normal way or children can bring a packed lunch. Children in FS2, Y1 and Y2 will still receive a free school meal. During dinner times, play outside and eating food in the dinner hall will be organised to ensure the children are doing these things in the safest possible ways.

**Uniform** – we will ask for all pupils to return to school wearing full uniform.

**Brining items into School** - children can bring named water bottles to school but they must go home each day to be cleaned. Book bags/school bags can be brought into school as normal. Each class will communicate their class PE time during the first week so that families know this and so that PE kits can go straight home after the PE session to allow for washing. As always, school will provide stationery for each child.

**Visits** - as a precautionary measure, there will be no educational visits during the first half of Autumn Term, but we will look at other steps to enhance our curriculum and learning experiences.

**Welcome Meetings** – hopefully you will all have received a copy of our calendar for next year (this will be published on our school website). The calendar details the different events to take place over the course of the year. Please note, whilst holidays are set, the dates of events and INSET Days may be subject to change but we will always aim to inform you of any such changes as early as possible. Our Welcome Meetings will take a different form this year and will be uploaded onto Class Dojo and the School Website. These meetings will share important information about your child's year ahead and as always, we would encourage you all to spend time watching these.

Over the course of the summer holidays we will be having extensive building works on our school roof. This is scheduled to last the entirety of the summer break and there may still be some work being undertaken on our return to school in September. If this is the case, you can rest assured that this will not impact on our children's education and there will be as little disruption to the organisation of school as possible. We will keep you updated should there be any changes.

In addition to this, should the lockdown situation change over the course of the summer holidays then we will write to you again to update you of any changes to our plans. If you have any questions about this letter and whole school return in September, please telephone school on 01709 512202.

I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support through what has been one of the most challenging times our school has ever seen. Your patience and your general support has made this situation much more manageable for us all. Please continue to take care and enjoy the summer holidays. I hope you all have a relaxing time with your loved ones and above all else please stay safe.

I look forward to seeing you all in September!

Mrs L Ridge  
Head of  
School