

Dear Parent / Carers

We are looking forward to welcoming all our children back on March 8 2021

We are delighted to be welcoming back all children from Monday 8th March and to be offering children, parents and staff alike the school experience we all so desperately crave.

It is important that I stress that there is every possibility that we will face further bubble closures at some points and a return to remote teaching could occur for a short period of time. In the same way it is likely that family life may continue to be disrupted by the need to isolate when in contact with a positive case outside of school.

It is therefore vital that we take a very steady, cautious and preventative approach. It may be that you are unaware of local cases or with the media sharing the lowering of cases and deaths every day, that this now seems to be over or very much on its way out. We very much hope this is the case, but I can confidently share that through PHE data shared with schools, COVID is very much around locally and our priority is keeping everyone in our school community safe. The arrangements we are sharing today are there to do exactly that. Please ensure that you are playing your part and following them at all times so that everyone in our community is kept as safe as is possible. We have remained COVID free in school and staff are being tested twice weekly as per the government request. Our heightened cleaning is still in place and our bubbles remain consistent.

Our updated risk assessment will be available to view on our website very soon. Please ensure that you read all our updated arrangements so that everyone can play their part in keeping our community safe, and just as importantly, our school open.

I would like to stress that the arrangements we have made with ODST and the Governing Board take our own individual school context into account. It is therefore unlikely that any two schools would have the exact same arrangements in place.

Drop off and pick up arrangements

All children will enter and leave via the gates at the front of the school of Temple Road.

The gates by the Silver Band Hall will not be used for the immediate future.

To avoid any congestion on site or on the school gate we will have a staggered start and end to each day. **Each class has a specific time for drop off and pick up.** No parents / carers can enter the school site, so children will be collected and dropped off at the main school gate on Temple Road. We ask that just one parent / carer drops off their child so that we can ensure social distancing guidelines are followed at the gate. We would like to ask the adult who is dropping off and collecting to wear a face covering. This is to ensure that you, the children and our staff are protected at these times where there will be several people in the locality. We would also ask that parents and carers be punctual but not early or late and vacate the area as soon as you have dropped off/collected and not to gather at the gates.

The details are below and the relevant gates will be signposted for you. We have taken account of siblings and they can come to school with the earliest starter i.e., if you have a child in Damson Class starting at 8:30 and you also have a Year 3 child, they can both start at 8:30 and Your Year 3 child will come out with their sibling at 2:50.

Staggered Drop-off and Pick-up

- Parents and children come through the pedestrian gate as usual.
- Nursery & Reception dropped off and collected from the EYFS gate
- Years 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6 dropped off and collected from the main gate
- Year 4 dropped off and collected from the kitchen gate
- Parents and families leave through the car park gate.
- There can be no traffic movement in the car park from 8:25 – 9:00 or 2:45 – 3:20

Arrival times		Departure times	
8:30	Nursery Damson Lime Maple	2:50	Damson Lime Maple
8:35	Hawthorn Cherry Hazel	2:55	Hawthorn Cherry Hazel
8:40	Apple Plane	3:00	Nursery Apple Plane
8:45	Ash Oak	3:05	Ash Oak
8:50	Silver Birch Aspen	3:10	Silver Birch Aspen
8:55	Rowan Willow	3:15	Rowan Willow

At drop off your child will be greeted by a senior member of staff at the gate, at the allocated time. Your child's class teacher/teaching assistant will greet them in their allocated area on the paths/car park on the way into school, and then be taken around into the classroom.

At pick up your child will be taken by their teacher / teaching assistant to meet you at the main school gate at the allocated time.

If you are travelling to school by car, please be mindful of the congestion on Temple Road and park away from the school so that we can ensure social distancing at the school gate and for the community. Please ensure you do not park on double yellow lines or the yellow zig-zags directly outside the school as it is illegal to do so and you may end up with a fine.

We would like to encourage as many children as possible to walk or cycle to school. The school bike racks will be available for bikes to be left in a secure place during the school day. Please ensure your child knows to only touch their own bike.

“COVID Secure”

Our risk assessment has been reviewed and updated as per the government guidance. This is published on our website, along with a flow chart shared by Public Health England, South East Protection Team, which you may find useful to gain an understanding of how PHE will be advising

schools in case of a positive case. We will continue to evaluate our planning and arrangements to ensure that they reflect the situation we find ourselves in as we move through the academic year.

Attendance

School attendance has returned to compulsory. However, you must ensure that **if anyone in your household tests positive, is awaiting a test result or has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school.** Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you **MUST** inform the school so the mandatory actions can take place, including engagement in Track and Trace.

If your child is shielding because they have been advised to do so, please can you send a copy of the letter received to the school office.

If you have been outside of the UK within the last 10 days, please remember you will need to self-isolate/quarantine for a full 10 days before returning to school.

Class bubbles

Each class will continue to have their own classroom and allocated outdoor space. There are at least two members of teaching staff allocated to each class. There will be minimal changes to staffing during the day and the week. Children in each class will spend the whole day together, as per Government guidance. Where there is infection in the school, this will enable some groups to still attend when others may need to return to remote learning. The children are not expected to social distance within their bubble with the emphasis on staff and children maintaining distance where possible.

Face covering and masks

This has been updated in the guidance and there is no expectation that children in primary schools should wear masks in school. Our staff will continue to wear masks when moving around the site and on the gate. Where staff are unable to maintain distance from the children for a period of time or in a smaller indoor area, staff routinely wear masks.

Handwashing

We will continue to wash or sanitise our hands regularly and at key times throughout the day. Sanitising units have been put up throughout the school to support our normal good hand hygiene practice that is in place.

School uniform and PE kit

Children will be expected to be wearing full school uniform.

Since we will be spending a lot of time outside children will need a warm waterproof coat and a pair of wellies would be useful. **It is vital that all items are clearly named.**

Children in KS1 & KS2 are to come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE. Children in EYFS will do their PE lessons in their school uniform. The PE days remain the same as before Christmas.

School lunches

Our kitchen is running at full capacity so meals will be ordered in the usual way and payment made via ParentMail. Children can bring in a packed lunch, please make sure that their lunch bag is clearly labelled. Please ensure your child has a labelled water bottle with them each day.

Break and lunchtime

Classes will remain as bubbles during social times with areas zoned for the children. Children should bring in a named water bottle.

Main Symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

Get more information and book a test [here](#).

And finally.....

There is no doubt that this lockdown has given us all a very different experience this time around. Time and time again we have seen that we are a kind and supportive community and this has shone through despite the extensive challenges many of you have faced at home and we have faced in school. Upon their return our children will not hear us using the language of “catch-up” and “lost learning” in school. Our staff are highly skilled at identifying gaps in learning, prioritising learning, assessing children and planning accordingly and this is embedded in our school. We saw that to great effect in terms 1 and 2. Our children need to know they are going to be ok and not become this self-fulfilling prophecy of a “lost generation”. We are under no illusions that this is going to be challenging for us all and in some cases it will take time, but we will get there.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school if you have any questions after reading this communication.

See you all very soon!!

Katie Screamton

Executive Head teacher