



Parental Information and Update

10th March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Following the First Minister's confirmation, we are delighted to be welcoming back all of our P4-7 children full-time on Monday 15th March. This will re-unite all of our children together again and allow us three school weeks together before the Spring break. Our children's Health & Wellbeing during this period will remain a primary concern and it will be vital that we collectively support and invest in our children's social, emotional and mental wellbeing as they re-engage with whole school life and learning. In addition and throughout the summer term, our curriculum will remain 'narrower' as it has done throughout this school session, with our other key focuses remaining Literacy and Numeracy.

School grounds, start/ end of school day and Academy Road:

Health & Safety and the whole school community's wellbeing will remain our first priority. All of our risk assessments have been reviewed and are in place. As the First Minister highlighted, it is vital that we do all that we can together to minimise adults congregating and mixing at the 'school gates'. I would respectfully ask again that you plan to minimise the time that you spend near the school at the start and end of day, and that you maintain your 2m social distancing from other adults.

Start of day: To support this, we will again be operating our 'soft start' from 08:40 each week day morning, when members of our Senior Leadership Team and PSAs will be in the playground, meaning that you do not have to wait on Academy Road at all to support your children. In bad weather, the children will go straight into school and their classrooms on their arrival from 08:40, as was the case during August–December 2020.

End of day: We will be staggering our children's exiting of the building to further support social distancing:

- **15:00 - Our Nursery and P1 children will leave the building at 3pm**
- **Approximately 15:05 - P2 children**
- **Approximately 15:10 - P3 children**
- **Approximately 15:15 – P4 children**
- **Approximately 15:20 – P5 children**
- **Approximately 15:25 – P6/7 children**

We hope that this will allow those parents without siblings to collect their children safely and immediately leave the area, in order to create space for others and to further reduce congestion. **It will also allow parents to arrive near Academy Road just before these timings, so as not necessarily needing (depending on your child's age) to be on Academy Road before 3pm. Our Senior Leadership Team will always be there to support our children's exit throughout this extended exiting process.** We have again requested police and Community Warden presence and hope that this will continue to be a regular aspect of all our support in the local area.



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Both the school and Parent Council remain in communication with the ERC Roads Department in order to try to find the best solutions for the immediate road area. At this time, and where at all possible, we would ask that you do not drive down Academy Road at peak times and that you do not 'hover' to let your child out of your car.

Homework and Google Classrooms:

Given the extended amount of screen time for all of our children (and parents/ carers!), we will providing 'paper-based' homework during the weeks commencing 15th and 22nd March for all of our classes. This homework will continue to focus upon Literacy and Numeracy. As usual there will be no homework on the last week of term. Including the Spring Break, this will mean that when we return to our Google Classrooms for homework on the week commencing 19th April, there will have been a good break away from this format which we hope will be beneficial for our children's wellbeing and motivation.

All of the staff team are very excited about the return of all of our children. Thank-you for all of shared care and efforts in making Remote Learning work as well as possible over the last few months. We know how hard and far reaching the wide ramifications of Covid-19 continue to be. Therefore, and as always, if you have any specific issues that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson'.

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher