



July 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I had planned to send this letter out in August but have decided that some of you would appreciate knowing some of this information now.

We are greatly looking forward to the planned full re-opening of school from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. It will be so exciting to see **all** our children returning! A new, detailed risk assessment will be published on the school website by August 26<sup>th</sup> which will give information about how we intend to carry out this re-opening safely. Please read this carefully and ask any questions you may have.

In brief, children will be within their whole class pods and we will minimise mixing between class pods as much as possible. At certain times however there may be mixing between pods such as playtime and when using the bathrooms for example although, again, we will minimise this as much as we can. When this mixing is unavoidable, we will restrict it to larger bubbles. Bubbles will be as follows:

EYFS and Key Stage 1 bubble

Years 3 and 4 bubble

Years 5 and 6 bubble

Breakfast Club and After School Club will run from September 2<sup>nd</sup>. For this provision we will undertake to keep key stage 1 and key stage 2 as separate as possible given the space we have. At breakfast Club we will provide simple pre-wrapped snacks such as cereal bars and fruit juice. I am pleased to inform you that we have a new After School Lead beginning with us, Mrs Sandra Bennetts. Sandra knows the school well as her own children attended many years ago and is excited about joining our team.

Children will be back in full school uniform in September so do go ahead and purchase new items you may need. Please remember children should only be wearing fully black shoes or trainers. One key change is that children will no longer be changing for PE but we will ask them to come to school wearing their PE kit on the day they have PE. We will let you know these days as soon as we can. We have loved seeing all the colourful hair changes over lockdown but I would ask you to ensure children have appropriate hair (tied back if long) and jewellery (only stud earrings) by September. Years 5 and 6 will have forest school in term 1 which will begin in week 2. Children should wear their outdoor clothes to school on Thursdays and year 5, who will be in the mornings initially, should bring a spare pair of trousers in the event of their forest school trousers getting muddy.

Children should come to school with just their lunch (if they are packed lunches) and water bottles. **Water bottles must only contain water.** We have had many children bringing juice over the lockdown period many sticky spillages on carpets. We have had new water coolers fitted which are much more hygienic than the old water fountains and provide a continual source of chilled, fresh water. All other equipment will be provided for children. For the time being, we request that children do not bring in their own pencil cases, notebooks and other items.

To help parents manage their own return to work we are keeping the staggering of start and finish times to a minimum. Key Stage 2 children should arrive at 8.45 – 8.55 and Key Stage 1 children from 9.00 – 9.15. We will keep the register open until 9.15. I hope that these extra few minutes will help the flow of children into school.

*..dream - plan - achieve..*

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Key stage 1 children will go straight to their classroom doors and key stage 2 children through the main entrance as normal. If you have children in key stage 1 and 2, please bring both at the later time. Finishing times are 3.00-3.15 for key stage 1 and 3.30 for key stage 2. If you have children in both key stages. Please come at the later time. Key stage 1 children with siblings in key stage 2 can remain in their classes until 3.30.

The most important thing will be that when bringing or collecting children, we would ask you to leave the school premises as quickly as possible. Key stage 1 children who are waiting outside of class for their siblings to come out at 3.30 **must** stay with their parents at all times. We will direct children to go back and stand with you if they wander off. I know this sounds very strict but it will be important for us as a school community to do what we can to keep everyone safe by abiding by guidelines. None of us want to risk another school closure.

Finally, we will need to return to managing the movement of traffic on school premises for the safety of everyone. With this in mind:

- Please do not bring your car onto school premises which includes turning in the space by the gate. The only exception to this is if you have a registered disabled badge. Please let us know if you have recently acquired one of these as we need to log everyone who has permission to bring a car onto the school grounds.
- We also now need to return to everyone pushing bikes and scooters once coming through the pedestrian gate. Again, the only exception to this is disability scooters.

I apologise for the long list of information and instructions. Much of it is just restating old rules which we have not needed to enforce so much whilst so few children have been in school. They are not us being difficult. Most of them are linked to the safety of our school community. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we put these back into place in September. I will design a leaflet with the key points and send this home for you to keep by August 26<sup>th</sup>. I will also send this letter out again before term begins as a reminder.

May I just take this opportunity to thank you once again for your unwavering support for school over this difficult period. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such wonderful families at Little Stoke. The whole staff are looking forward to seeing everyone back in September, safe and well. In the meantime, have a fantastic summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Sargent

Head Teacher