

Information for parents and carers for wider opening River Mead School – 8th March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, guidance has been issued for the FULL and wider re-opening of schools from Monday March 8th, we cannot wait to welcome everyone back! As a school we have attempted to maintain a sense of normality, but with recognition that things continue to be different for us all as they were in September.

Attendance from March 8th will be mandatory for all children. Should you have any queries or concerns, then please do contact us via office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk or call school before the end of this week. We recognise that for some children and adults, returning to school will again be an anxious time. We will be doing our best to minimise these issues.

Please remember if you need to speak directly to the office that there must only be one adult in the entrance foyer at a time and a face covering must be worn.

Please make sure your child/ren bring back ALL of their school work and reading books, they will need these on Monday!

Please remember that every school is different and, although each school will be following the same guidance, how they do this will look slightly different. In the meantime, here is some useful information to remind you of our processes and to help you and your child prepare for wider re-opening.

Preventative hygiene and PPE.

Most children will be familiar with the need to:

- **Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual with soap and water.**
 - Children will wash their hands on arrival in the morning
 - Children will also wash their hands at various points throughout the school day, including at the end of break, at the beginning and end of lunch, after using the toilet and before they come home.
 - Children may have a small tube of hand cream, named, which stays in school. They must be able to use this independently.
 - Hand sanitiser is readily available throughout school and use will be supervised by school staff.

- **Undertake the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach** with enough tissues and lidded bins available in each room to support children and staff to follow this routine;

PPE (personal protective equipment)

Staff

Staff will wear PPE (masks, face shields, aprons and gloves) in line with our Risk Assessment:

- Where children whose care routine already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs, they will continue to receive their care in the same way
- Where a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus

- Staff will wear face coverings whilst moving around the school building outside of their 'bubble' or where they cannot safely be 2m away from the other adult.

Children

If your child has been wearing a face covering before arriving at school, they need to understand how to remove it. Children must wash their hands immediately on arrival at school, dispose of any temporary face coverings in a lidded bin, or put reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them; then wash their hands again. Staff cannot help children with masks if children cannot manage these independently.

Public Health England and school guidance still does not recommend the use of face coverings for children in primary schools.

Class and year group 'bubbles'.

We will continue to group the children into 'bubbles' which will remain consistent and separate from other 'bubbles'. These will be the same as in September EYFS, Y1&Y2, Y3&Y4, Y5&Y6 and The Complex Needs Resource Base.

Breakfast and after school Care.

Before and After School Care will remain as booked places only to avoid children coming and going and to ensure consistent staffing. 'Ad hoc' places will not be available and parents must need these places for essential medical appointments or work; they must be paid for in advance. BSC and ASC will run in the hall with children seated in year groups to ensure they remain in consistent bubbles.

School clubs

At this time NO activity clubs of any kind will take place before the Easter holiday, when this will be reviewed. We will inform parents when we are able to operate clubs again.

Attendance.

All children will be welcomed back to their schools on Monday 8th March.

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.*

Please prepare your children for return for the first day back on Monday 8th March

Start and end of the day.

Please limit the number of adults bringing a child to school or collecting them at home time, one adult per family.

You MUST wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting, you will be challenged if you are not so please have proof of your exemption (lanyard or Dr's letter). This is no different to the supermarkets; support us in keeping everyone safe in this way.

Please leave the school when you have dropped off or picked up your children to avoid crowds; do not stop to chat with friends, please phone them later instead.

Children should go straight to their classrooms without delay. Senior staff and Mrs Ferguson (Parent Support Advisor) will be on at the gate before and after schools to help and advise.

We ask that parents do not try to speak to teachers at the start and end of the day unless the teacher initiates this; if you need to talk to the teacher please contact the school office and the teacher will then phone back. Children and parents should leave the school premises promptly and without meeting up with others.

We tried staggered starts in September, but due to the large numbers of siblings and people forgetting these, this time we have made one longer drop off 'window' in the hope of better success.

Please do not all turn up at 8.40am - the gates will be open from 8.40/8.45am and will shut at 9am (any children will then be marked as late). Resource Base, EYFS and Nursery have specific times (see below)

If you have to wait please use the markings on the pavements/floor and keep 2m apart.

Arrival time slot. All gates will shut at 9am	EY/RB gate (double gate next to car park)	King Fisher Court green gate (opposite KFC) – one way system	Warren 'white' gate (next to school office)	Finish time
From 8.40am			Year 5/6	3:20pm <i>Please wait on white spots - children will also be released if we can see you at the fence.</i>
From 8.40am		Year 3&4 Onto playground spots		3.20pm <i>Please wait on red/blue spots</i>
From 8.40am		Year 1&2 Children walk round to classroom		3:10pm <i>Please wait on red/blue spots</i>
8.45am – 9.00am	RB			3:00pm
8.45am – 9.00am	Year R			3:10pm
Nursery: please be advised these timings below are for your sessions				
8.40am – 8.50am			Nursery <i>Please wait to the left of the barriers on the white spots</i>	12:30pm
12:30 – 12:40pm			Nursery <i>Please wait to the left of the barriers on the white spots</i>	3:15pm or 4:15pm

Older children who have previously been given permission to walk/ride home will continue to be allowed to do so. Please make sure we are aware of this, so we can allow them to leave alone.

We will review this process and the timings if it is not working, e.g. everyone arrives at once, it may be necessary to change it – please help us to make it work.

Coats and bags.

Children in EYFS, Complex Needs Resource Base and Y1 & 2 will use coat pegs as normal. We will not be using coat pegs from Y3-6. The children's pegs are very close together and don't allow space for children to distance from others. Children should only bring to school essential items. They can bring a bag as long as not too big as these will be difficult to store. Coats will be hung on children's chairs.

- Coat
- Lunch (if not having a school lunch)
- Snack (in KS2)
- Water bottle (clearly named – they do have a school water bottle)

- Change of clothing if needed (EYs)
- Book/reading record

The importance of fresh air.

Windows and/or doors will be left open in most cases even in cold weather as good ventilation is an important part of our infection control measures. Children may be allowed to wear coats in class in colder weather.

School lunches.

We will have a full 'normal' offer for hot lunches with the normal payment arrangements via SIMS Pay and pre-selection of the menu. You should have already received a menu to book, if not please contact the school office.

Travel to and from school.

In accordance with our current risk assessment we encourage parents, staff and pupils to walk, use a scooter or cycle to school if at all possible. Children should not travel to or from school with other children or with another family outside of their "bubble".

PLEASE NOTE: There is limited parking, so where you are able to 'kiss and drop' with older children please do so. If you are able to use an alternative carpark or park and walk a short distance to prevent congestion in the carpark outside of school please do so.

School uniform.

School uniform should be worn as normal. **On days when children have PE they will wear their PE kit to school to avoid changing in school.** We anticipate that PE will take place outside so children will need to wear jogging bottoms and their school jumper/coat on cold days. The Friends of River Mead have a selection of second hand uniform (please see their facebook page).

Thank you for your continued cooperation, we have missed seeing you all, we are looking forward to seeing you and your children on Monday the 8th of March.

Sincerely



Mrs Karen Austin
Head Teacher