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Information for parents and carers for return to school September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware, there now has been guidance issued for the NORMAL re-opening of school's in September, and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back to classrooms including those children and families who are new to our school.

I have included information below for those who are new to our school and as a reminder for those returning, it seems like such a long time ago we had a normal school; you may, like me need some reminders! We continue to ask you to work with us over the next few months as we get the school up to running with more normal routines, some of these will need to be developed gradually.

In September school will re-open on Friday 3rd September for children in Nursery and Y1 to Y6. There will be phased introduction to school for new Reception children to ensure the children settle and have confidence in the school environment. Initially (3rd-7th September) the Reception children will have the opportunity with their parents to meet the staff, and then children start either morning or afternoons (8th-10th September) . Please refer to the letter you were sent for the full information.

The school will also be open for staff training on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd of September 2021.

Please be aware we will still be limiting access to parents and carers for the first half of autumn term, this will then be reviewed. Where we are able to use experienced volunteers or parent volunteers they will require an updated DBS. Please continue to support the school staff by ensuring that you communicate with school via phone, e-mail wherever possible.

In this letter you will find information on;

- Bubbles
- Drop of and collection
- School uniform
- PE & Swimming Lessons
- Attendance
- School clubs
- Continuing Measures

Bubbles



Class and year group 'bubbles' will no longer be a requirement in September unless there is an identified outbreak in the school, when limiting contact between groups of children and staff may be necessary. In such an instance the school will follow its 'outbreak management plan' this will be in discussion with PHE & Test and Trace. All schools have outbreak management plans for other contagious illnesses in this instance we will have an additional one for Coronavirus; should we need to implement the plan you will be informed.

Drop off and collection

School gates will be open at 8.45am – 9.00am. After 9am you will be required to go to the main school reception and your child will be registered as late, this WILL affect their attendance.

Children in the main school will finish school at 3.15pm with children in The complex needs resource base (RB) finishing at 3pm (to avoid taxi congestion).



- ⇒ Resource Base – please continue to use the wooden gates by the carpark, to collect and drop off please say goodbye at the gate.
- ⇒ Nursery – please drop off/collect your child via the gates, next to the main school reception, as per last term, (also being used by YrR).
- ⇒ Reception (Yr R) - please drop off/collect your child via the gates next to the main school reception, (also used by Nursery).
- ⇒ Dragonflies Nurtured Learning - please drop off/collect your child via the gates next to the main school reception. (also used by Nursery/ YrR)
- ⇒ Y1&2 – please enter via the KFC single green side gate (opposite the MUGA), exit via the white double gates) parents can walk their children round to the wooden gates (by y1&2) please say goodbye at this point. Collection will be from the classroom external doors, please wait in the Y1&2 outside area.
- ⇒ Y3&4 - please enter via the KFC single green side gate (opposite the MUGA), exit via the white double gates). Children will go into school via their outside classroom door, please say goodbye on the playground. Collection will be from the main playground (opposite the classroom external door)
- ⇒ Y5&6 – please enter via the KFC single green side gate (opposite the MUGA), exit via the white double gates). Children will go into school via the ramp to their classroom, please say goodbye on the playground. Collection will be from the main playground, please wait near the side of the ramp.

Any older children in KS2 who you are expecting to walk/ride/scoot home alone must bring a letter of permission in to allow this.

School uniform.

School uniform should be worn yrR-y6, there is an expectation that children wear their school uniform smartly, it is clean and they wear suitable school shoes during the day (not trainers, except on PE days).

- ◆ Jade school sweatshirt or cardigan (preferably with school Kingfisher logo)
- ◆ White or navy polo shirt
- ◆ Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- ◆ green and white checked or striped dress
- ◆ Sensible dark shoes (no trainers, heels or slingbacks)
- ◆ Waterproofs (early years/nursery especially)
- ◆ A hat (in summer)
- ◆ A school book bag

The Friends of River Mead School do have some second hand uniform for sale to help families (contact them via their face book page).

For reasons of Health & Safety children must not wear jewellery except watches and stud earrings (no hooped earrings). The school also discourages the wearing of nail polish and designer sportswear .

PE, games and coaching.

On PE days, children should come to school in their PE kit on days when they have PE, to avoid changing at school. If you are not sure which day your child does PE, please contact your school office.

- T-shirt in house colour
- Navy shorts and tracksuit bottoms
- Navy hoodie or jumper
- Plimsolls or trainers



Whenever possible we anticipate that PE will take place outside so children will need to wear jogging bottoms and their school jumper/navy hoodie or jumper on cold days. This will help to reduce the use of extra school bags and the need for the older children to find spaces to change.

On days when children have PE they will continue to wear their PE kit to school to avoid changing in school.

Swimming.

We anticipate that swimming will re-start in September and are planning for this to be the case. KS2 follow a programme of swimming and this will start with Y6 in the Autumn term on a Tuesday afternoon. You will be informed of the dates in September. A Number of Complex Needs Resource Base pupils also attend swimming, again you will be informed if this applies to you, and of the dates, in September.



Attendance.

All children will be welcomed back to school on Friday 3rd September, except the new Reception intake who will have their own individual timetable; attendance is mandatory and punctuality is essential. All classes undertake learning straight away from 9am, and for younger children this is their phonics and reading session.



There will be a rigorous system of following up absentees, you **MUST** phone or e-mail if your child is absent. If the school phone you to see why they are not in school please answer the phone, if not we will continue to call all of your contacts to ensure we know why they are absent. If we receive no reply, it will likely result in a knock on your door!

School clubs.

Activity Clubs

Activity clubs will start back from Monday 4th October to allow the children to settle in, clubs to be arranged and for staff to complete some necessary training. Further information will be sent out once we return to school and know what we are able to offer and when.

Breakfast and After school clubs.

Breakfast and After School Care will continue to be pre-booked places, these must be paid for in advance via SIMspay . Both offer opportunities for completing home learning, reading to an adult, creative activities, games and outdoor play.

Breakfast from 7.45

After School 3.15-4.15

Continuing Measures

The importance of fresh air.

Windows and/or doors will continue to be left open as much as possible, as good ventilation is an important part of our ongoing infection control measures.

Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual with soap and water.

Children will wash their hands on arrival in the morning in the classroom/ class toilets (rather than outside)

Children will also need to wash their hands at various points throughout the school day.

Hand sanitiser is readily available throughout school, Its use will be supervised by school staff and this will be used at other times during the day.

Children may have a small tube of hand cream, named, which stays in school. They must be able to use this independently.

PPE (personal protective equipment)

Staff will wear PPE (masks, face shields, aprons and gloves) as is necessary for the situation, this will not be very often, e.g. where a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus.

Where children whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs, they will continue to receive their care in the same way.

Children or staff suspected of having COVID-19.

Will be sent home and will be required to follow the government advice, you will find information here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Households with a confirmed case of Coronavirus

You should follow the advice laid out by Public Health England here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection) regarding isolation and engagement with NHS Track and Trace; these families should keep their school informed about results and cases.

Please be aware Government guidance does change, and may do so again – we will ensure we are consistent in our message to you, linked to the updated government guidance.

Should any child/ren be away from school due to testing positive for Covid-19, or be in isolation, then our remote learning offer will be initiated.

We hope you have a summer break spent with family and friends and have had a good break so your children are all ready to learn in September. We will be excited to see you all and welcome the children back to school and their new classrooms and teachers.

You can see the staff on the website here; [Our team 2021-22 | River Mead School](#)

Should there be any changes in the government guidance, please be vigilant for further communication from me.

Sincerely



Karen Austin
Head Teacher