23rd August 2021,

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have enjoyed the summer. We can’t wait to welcome our children to school on **Monday 6th September 2021** and are writing to update you with regards to the arrangements.

**Covid 19 Risk Assessment**

As you will be aware, there have been changes to government’s COVID guidance, including to the guidance issued for schools by the Department for Education. As a consequence of this we have updated our risk assessment and will share this with you on Friday 3rd September 2021 following our INSET days. Whilst we will share the full document with you at this time, in summary there are four key control measures which remain in place:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**Start and end of the day**

As a consequence of the new guidance, we have adjusted the start and end of day arrangements as follows:

* We will no longer stagger start or end of day times.
  + For Year 1- Year 6 inclusive:
    - Children can be dropped off between 8.50 and 9am to start school at 9am.
    - School will finish at 3.15pm
  + For our new Reception class, children can be dropped off at 9.15am on Monday 6th September, and from 8.50am for a 9am start on subsequent days.
* We will continue to:
  + use the allocated entrances/exits for each year group (see below)
  + ask parents to kindly leave the school premises after drop-off/collection
  + ask children to make their way straight to their classroom as they come in

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| **Birdcage walk entrance**   |  | | --- | | Year group | | Reception | | Year 2 | | Year 6 | | **Dovers Park entrance**   |  | | --- | | Year group | | Year 1 | | Year 3 | | Year 5 | | **Driveway Path entrance**   |  | | --- | | Year group | | Year 4 | |

* Parents and carers are no longer required to wear a face covering when outside on the school site however you are very welcome to do so should you wish.
* The roads around the school have been resurfaced and the safety markings have been repainted. Please do not pull up on the pavements or pull into the school drive as this puts the safety of our children at risk.
* A new dropped kerb crossing point has been created opposite the Gruffalo to help you to support your children to cross the road safely.
* If your child is late and the school gates are locked, please escort them to the school office to sign in.

**What to wear and bring to school**

* We will continue to ask children to come to school ‘PE ready’ on PE coach days, e.g. already in PE kit and trainers. In the Friday 3rd September update to parents, we will confirm which year groups have Thursday as their PE Coach day and which have Friday. We will also confirm the Forest School timetable and club arrangements for the term. Clubs will begin week commencing 13th September.
* Please ensure any medication your child requires is given to the school office; you will need to fill out a medicine parental agreement if you have not already done so.

**Hygiene and ventilation**

* Please ensure children wash their hands before coming to school. We will continue to ensure regular hand washing at school.
* There will be regular hygiene reminders with regards to handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and running water or hand sanitiser, as well as ‘catch it/bin it/kill it’ and signage around school.
* Windows and doors will be open wherever possible, with due regard to fire regulations (key fire doors automatically release when the alarm is activated) and maintaining a comfortable temperature for the children.

**Covid 19 Related Sickness Procedures**

* If you have been overseas during the summer holiday, please ensure that you have followed the government guidance on quarantining and testing. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19
* It remains vital that we minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that children and staff who exhibit **any Coronavirus symptoms** (a new continuous cough or a high temperature or a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell) **do not** attend school. Please contact us at [office@bathford.bwmat.org](mailto:office@bathford.bwmat.org) if your child is not coming into school.
* Parents/carers must **book a PCR test** as soon as possible for their child if the child is displaying symptoms of Covid 19 and **notify us** of the result. If the result is positive we will follow the guidance provided by BANES Public Health. **Getting children with symptoms tested is a really important measure in protecting our school community and we ask for your collective support with this.**
* If the test is positive, children need to follow the https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance and continue to self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day their symptoms started and the next 10 full days.  Children can only return to school after this if they no longer have symptoms other than a cough or loss sense smell/taste because these can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. If they still have a temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.
* Parents are to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process as schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing.
* Guidance changed on 16 August, such that now, if you are a contact of someone who has COVID-19 and you are fully vaccinated, or aged under 18 years 6 months, you will not be legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#PCR).
* Children who fall ill during the school day with Coronavirus symptoms will be taken to an isolation room where they will be monitored until they are collected. Parents/carers must then book a test for their child. Until the test result, the child must self-isolate. The isolation period includes the day their symptoms started and the next 10 full days.  If a child tests negative, they can return to school.

**Remote learning**

* For any children who are unable to return to school due to quarantine or self-isolation, Teams will be used to support remote learning.

Thank you, as always, for your support and we look forward to welcoming our children back on **Monday 6th September,**

Yours Sincerely,

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Headteacher