

25th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your children are having an enjoyable summer break!

When the pupils start in September, we are still expecting to be going back to relative normality! There will be no bubbles, no staggered drop off times and we hope (in some capacity) to welcome parents back in to school...it will be fantastic!

Following my letter sent to you on July 16th, the school has updated its Covid risk assessment using Hertfordshire County Council and Department of Education Guidance. In addition, it has created an Outbreak Management Plan. As a result, I am writing to remind/inform you of some pertinent information regarding our operating procedures.

Drop-Off and Collection from Monday 6th September 2021

Nursery Pupils – please check separate information from Mrs Speer regarding staggered start times for Thursday & Friday. As of Monday 6th September Nursery will open from 8.30am or 12.15pm.

Reception Pupils – Thursday 2nd September split day either 9.30am to 11.30am or 1.00pm to 3.00pm. If you are not sure which time you have been allocated please contact the school office. Friday 3rd September – 9.00am start for all pupils. Monday 6th September the following paragraph will apply.

At the beginning of the day, at **8.40am**, the classroom doors will open and pupils will be able to walk straight in. This can happen anytime between 8.40am and **8.55am** which is the official start of the school day. The gates will be locked shortly after 8.55am and any pupils who are arriving late need to enter the school via the office. Between 8.40am and 8.55am, pupils will complete early morning activities. We respectfully request that you do not arrive at school earlier than 8.40am (unless dropping off your children to the Nursery or Early Bird club).

At the end of the day, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be collected from outside their classrooms at **3.10pm** and Years, 3,4,5 & 6 will be collected from the top playground at **3.15pm** – of course you can wait on the playground to collect siblings. Teachers from Reception to Year 4 will let your children go when they have seen you – for pupils in Years 5 & 6, we will send a 'permission to walk home' form for the beginning of the school year.

Actions around self-isolation of staff and children

For staff

From 16 August, staff who are fully vaccinated (14 days following second dose) may no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case. They will be strongly advised to take a PCR test and can attend school while they await the result. If positive, they will need to self-isolate immediately.

NHS Test and Trace will contact those who have been identified as a contact and check whether there is a legal requirement for them to self-isolate. If they are not legally required to self-isolate,

they will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Any member of staff who is experiencing symptoms – **new or continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, high temperature** – must stay at home and book a PCR test.

For pupils who have been identified as close contacts

Children and young people aged under 18 years and 6 months who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend the setting as normal. Again, any pupil who is experiencing symptoms **must not** attend and parents and carers should be advised to book a PCR test or speak to their GP.

Children under 4 will not be advised to take a PCR test unless the positive case is someone in their own household.

Support and advice

Our school will no longer perform contact tracing when informed about a positive case(s), however we will continue to provide support and guidance to help reduce further transmission within the setting.

Preventative Measures

To reduce transmission in school, we will continue with hand hygiene, increased ventilation and enhanced cleaning procedures.

We are really looking forward to starting the new school year and welcoming your children back. To help with this, I have created a brief video for the pupils. Please can you share this when they are before coming back to school.

<https://www.gadevalley.herts.sch.uk/september-2021-2>

Best Wishes,

Mr Barron