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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Coronavirus Risk

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools restricted their opening to most pupils in March, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. Of course, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why we have put in place a range of protective measures.

In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when children return to school in September. This letter outlines some of the changes and protective measures we are putting in place and what parents, carers and children will need to do to help ensure our school is as safe as possible for everyone.

Back to School

It is vital that your child returns to school for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. This means that the legal duty is on you, as a parent, to send your child to school regularly.

A small number of children will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school for this reason, you should call us so that we can provide access to remote education.



Health and Safety

We have written our own health and safety risk assessment as part of our planning for the autumn term and the return of all children. The measures we are implementing are essential to help reduce health risks.

Parents and carers can support this by:

- Ensuring that, if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school or college
- Ensuring that, if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to [get a test](#) and you should inform us of the results of that test

We are:

- managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.
- ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating.
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- doing enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often.
- minimising contact and maintaining distance, as far as possible - this will involve children staying within separate groups (or bubbles.) The government's guidance to schools recognises that children may not be able to maintain social distancing.

Face Coverings

Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Learning in School

In September, we will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects, although changes will need to be made to some subjects - such as PE - to ensure they can be delivered as safely as possible. We recognise that children will have missed a critical period of their learning due to lockdown in the 2019 to 2020 academic year. We have devised a recovery curriculum to give children the best chance to catch-up on the learning they have missed.

We also have plans for the provision of remote education where needed, to ensure that the small number of children and young people that need to be educated at home, for example, due to shielding or self-isolation, are given the support they need to continue learning.

Uniform

We will return to our usual uniform policy in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Lunch

Our school kitchen will be fully open from the start of the autumn term to provide a full menu of hot meals. Children may also bring a packed lunch if you prefer.

Local Outbreak

Over the next year, if we experience an outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) we will contact our local health protection team. This team will advise us if additional action is required, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

Where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school, if necessary.

If our local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread.

The government will be involved in decisions and will support individual schools to follow the health advice.

In all cases, where groups of pupils need to self-isolate or where a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed, we will ensure your child's education can continue remotely.

Parents

Only Nursery and Reception parents will be allowed on the school site, in accordance with our risk assessment. Please socially distance when you drop off and collect your child.

Staggered Arrival and Leaving

On arrival children will go straight into class, via the outside door of the classroom.

Stafford Road gate	Nursery and Reception	Arrive: 8:45	Leave: 3:15
Stafford Road gate	Y5 & Y6	Arrive 8:55	Leave 3:20

Bristol Road gate	Y1 & Y2	Arrive: 8:55	Leave: 3:05
Bristol Road gate	Y3 & Y4	Arrive: 9:00	Leave: 3:15

We are looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Please look out for another letter telling you the start date for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Norris (Headteacher)

