

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you have had a good summer – with the rather interesting range of weather conditions that we had! I explained in my newsletter at the end of term, that I would write to you over the holiday period, regarding any different arrangements to usual for the start of term, based upon any renewed guidance from the government. I have been following the government advice over the holidays and considering any implication for us very carefully.

We aim to make the necessary changes whilst minimising the impact on routines and maximising the learning opportunities for all our children. We recognise that, whatever we must put in place, may have an impact on our children's families, and we have consciously tried to consider them in these decisions. Things cannot be as they once were and we must be very clear regarding our expectations of the children, their families and ourselves.

The things that we believe work well for our school will remain, if slightly adapted, whilst other things that do not have a positive impact on the safety, wellbeing and development of our children will be altered. Our vision, mission, ethos and values remain the same.

There have not been many key changes to the guidance for primary schools since we broke up in the summer and therefore as I explained in my last newsletter, all year groups will be returning as normal in September and we will be aiming in the main to work as far as possible in year group bubbles. Under the guidance staff will be able to work across bubbles where necessary but we will minimise this as much as we can.

As you may remember from the end of last term, due to trying to work in year group bubbles, club provision will be very limited at least for the Autumn term, but we will continue to review this as we go through the academic year.

School starts on Thursday 3rd September. Parents of children joining Reception should follow the planned induction arrangements – <https://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk/new-starters/>

We are asking that Year 1 children meet their teachers on the lower middle playground (see attached map) at 8.50 a.m. in order to support with their transition into Key Stage One. For Year Groups Y2 up to Y6, soft start will be in place from 8.40 a.m. to 8.50 a.m.

We have also allocated different drop off points for parents and will maintain our one way system in order to ensure that there is a safe flow of parents and avoid parents and children crossing over one another.

The drop off and collection points are listed below (please see attached map):

Reception - Reception Playground (timings as per your induction guidance)

Year 1 - Lower Middle Playground (adjacent to Oak Class – please walk along the path adjacent to the field)

Year 2 - Middle Playground (children go straight to rooms from the playground)

Year 3 - Upper Playground (behind the Y2/3 building)

Year 4 - The Y4 corridor entrance (door between the hall and the Y6 corridor)

Year 5 – Via the pathway that runs to the rear of the Y5 classrooms

Year 6 – Via the Y6 playground

We also ask that for everyone's safety, and because we are advised that adults are most at risk from Covid 19, that parents do not stand and talk on pathways and instead allow everyone to enter and leave the premises promptly and safely. Parents are also not allowed to enter the building with their children to get to classes – if you need to leave a message then please either send your child in with a note or email the school office and it will be forwarded on.

As I also stated in the end of term newsletter, other than for our reception pupils, there will be no school hot dinner option, at least for the first few weeks. Children will need to either bring in a packed lunch from home or purchase a school packed lunch. Children on free school meals can continue to receive a free school packed lunch. The menus can be found on the school website <https://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk/lunch-milk-and-fruit/>.

We also ask that for the time being, pupils (except those in reception) continue to bring in a named pencil case with a small ruler, pencil, coloured pencils, a sharpener and a rubber (and pen for older children) to keep in school. (Our teachers will blog if there are other requirements for pencil cases.)

Please can children also bring in P.E. kits which can now be kept in lockers. Our usual uniform expectations will continue. Every child should come to school dressed smartly and appropriately. This includes only wearing red, black or blue hair accessories. As before the holidays, if you would like your child to wear a mask, they can, provided they take full responsibility for it and can manage putting it on and taking it off. We have sanitisers throughout the school, but again if your child can manage its use they may bring in their own small one.

As we will be utilising the outdoor space even more than usual, please ensure that the children are always equipped with suitable outdoor clothing such as waterproof coat and sensible shoes. PE kits should include something warm for autumn and winter weather such as hoodies/sweatshirts in their house colours and navy or black tracksuit bottoms/leggings.

As explained in my last newsletter the The four 'musts' for schools from the guidance are to:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school

2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach

It is therefore vitally important that parents continue to keep children at home if they have symptoms and also get both their child and their household tested.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Over this week we will be updating our Frequently Asked Questions regarding Covid 19 and these will be available from our link on our website homepage, but in the meantime I hope that I have covered most of the key points needed for when the children return on Thursday 3rd September.

We look forward to seeing all of the school back together once more!

With best wishes,

Mr Farrugia