



**Welcome back to school!**

**Update – 08.09.20**

It was lovely to welcome all the year 1 and year 2 children back into school last week. The sun shone brightly on Wednesday morning and the playground was full of smiles! There was a real excited buzz in the air as the children came into to their new classes.

The teachers have reported that all the children have settled incredibly well considering that they did not have the usual opportunities to visit classrooms prior to the summer. This was a real credit to the children, demonstrating just how adaptable and resilient they are.

Should you have any questions regarding classes or provision we will always do our best to help.

It has been a very strange and difficult time for us all over the last 6 months, and we are all incredibly happy to be back at school in spite of the changes and restrictions that we have to put in place. These are continuously under review in order that we can do our best to keep children, staff and parents safe and well.

#### **Risk Assessment Update - Arriving at and leaving school in order to better promote social distancing**

The one way system for parents and children on to the playground via the gates on Southwood Road remains quite congested. We therefore want to review it. In order to overcome this issue we are going to also open the very large emergency gates at the front of school. Please be vigilant underfoot as there are some tree roots and a small concrete edge to the playground. The small gate and the middle sized gate will be for entry and the very large gate will be for exit. Please *do not* stand just inside the gates, or outside the gates once your children are in school. It is key that we are all able to follow social distancing guidance. It is essential that the pavement alongside the zig zag lines is kept clear of groups of pedestrians wherever possible in order that parents are able to gain access and leave the premises safely and quickly.

All the key stage 1 children are now familiar with where they are going on arrival at school, and what they need to do. Moving forward, the Year 2 children will continue to arrive at 8.40am and the Year 1 children will arrive at 8.50am. Lining up will therefore be disbanded from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Support staff will be 'on the doors' to meet and greet, and teachers will be in the classrooms ready to start the day.

From Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September our reception children will be attending school for full days. Their start time is 9am. It is even more imperative therefore that all key stage 1 parents clear the playground promptly once their child is safely in class.

It is our aim to:

- Reduce the number of people on the playground at any time
- Reduce the amount of time parents spend on the playground
- Ease the flow of foot traffic/movement at 'drop off/pick up', reducing congestion
- Decrease any anxiety that children might feel about waiting for their line to come in
- Enable parents to social distance

Please aim not to arrive on the premises before your child's year group is due to enter school.

Please ensure that only one adult drops off or picks up your child from school.

Should you feel that your child will need additional support due to these changes please let us know.

Yvonne Dobson – Headteacher

