

04 March 2021

Dear Parents

The return to fully open schools in England is nearly upon us. As a Headteacher I want to tell you we are fully prepared and committed to ensuring children receive the same outstanding education as they did before the third lockdown.

As a parent I can only comment on my own children and it certainly feels like the Blunt family have run out of steam with home education! I will never be able to put into words quite how grateful we are to key worker parents who have continued to work throughout the lockdown to ensure we stay safe and parents who have taught their children while they have been at home.

I sincerely hope this is the last time I will ever write to you about schools being closed.

Our ambition is to ensure all children and parents understand the processes we have put in place. The vast majority of our systems remain exactly the same as they did last term. Therefore, as parents, you may not notice huge changes. We have thought about the wellbeing of our children carefully. Indeed, some children and families may need extra support on the return to school. However, experience of the last lockdown that affected schools and speaking to a number of children, parents and teachers, it is quite clear that what children want and need is to see their friends, to laugh and smile, to find out what school has been like during the third lockdown, to eat together, to play together and most importantly to learn together.

One of the first letters I sent after the lockdown talked about your children being brave, kind and resilient. These qualities will see them return to some sense of normality quite quickly. Therefore, as a school, our key priority must clearly be raising academic achievements and standards in order that we prepare all our children for life at Spring Vale and beyond.

I could write to you at this stage with hundreds of details. However, I want to point out a few key ones that will help us to transition quickly to a fully functional school once again. If you have individual queries or questions, please don't hesitate to email us or call us in the next few days. But I would once more like to remind you that school will be very much like the one children left on 18th December when they broke up for Christmas.

- Attendance – the Prime Minister has made it clear that attendance of all pupils is compulsory (the usual exemptions apply, eg if your child is unwell and cannot attend school). Please send your children to school as the Education Welfare Officer and Local Authority will monitor this carefully. Whilst I understand parents may be anxious about this, we have no choice but to send our children to school.
- Face coverings – please wear a face covering any time you enter the school site. I will not ask the staff to enforce this as it is certainly not our role, however again the Local Authority will be at school gates monitoring this.
- Parking – I urge you to leave plenty of time if you are planning on driving to school (for the spring and summer term, walking to school would be much better where possible). Road markings outside school have changed dramatically and they will need some

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getting used to. Please don't park across residents' driveways as this will fall on the school to sort, possibly even myself, and this takes me away from supporting your children. Also, a polite reminder that the school site is for staff and visitor parking only.

- Visitors into school – from 8th March, visitors will return to school and follow our Covid-19 risk assessment. This will allow professionals such as speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, health and safe executives and trainee teachers to return to their vital roles in school.
- Starts and ends of the day – all parents have been sent a letter via text to remind you about the start and end of the day for your child/children. Same arrangements will be in place as last term, if you have children starting and ending at different times. Again contact us if you have any queries. If you arrive early, please wait outside the school site before you enter and we ask you, except for exceptional circumstances, not to be late collecting children.
- Breakfast club/After school Club/sports clubs – both breakfast club and after school club (ACES) will reopen on 8th March. Further details about the opening of sports clubs run by Miss Kelbie and Soccer 2000 will follow next week.
- PE Lessons: For Years 1 – 6, please come to school dressed in sports kit. You will receive a text reminder about PE days on Sunday. In line with our risk assessment, we will be asking our sports teachers to take children outside wherever possible. Therefore, can I ask that children are dressed appropriately?
- School terms and timetables – a polite reminder to all parents that schools in England will return to the planned academic year. This means that children will break up for Easter on Thursday 1st April 2021. Here is a reminder of our academic term dates:

<https://tinyurl.com/jewn75cr>

We cannot wait to see you on Monday morning. As a human being, I am looking forward to routine, a sense of purpose and working once more with our amazing children, families and community. Enjoy the last few days of home learning, you can pass the baton back to school on Monday morning!

Kind regards



Mr C Blunt
Headteacher