



Deeping St Nicholas Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mr T W Emery

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: School Update – September 2020

As you're no doubt aware, all children will be expected to return to school this September.

It's not the start to a new academic year, that any of us would have wanted, but we have to deal with what we are presented with. Our school has not closed over the whole of the lockdown period. During this time, we have acquired new skills and organisation; including planning for the children to enter the school safely, to be in and around school safely and to leave for home safely. September will bring us similar challenges and even though the science tells us that the risk is minimal in schools, we will still be observing COVID safe guidance.

Part of the guidance details the need to group children into 'bubbles'. Each class will now form its own 'bubble' and where possible, the adults and children will remain static within their bubbles. Activities throughout the day (including breaks and lunchtime) will be such that children will not cross into each other's 'bubble'.

We are also directed to *stagger* our children's arrival and departure. After several conversations and multiple versions, we have created a timetable which aims to reduce the contact between our children. There will be little annoyances for some people, but we have given thought to aspects such as, sibling groups, working parents and children in taxis etc.

TIMES

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 (Muntjacs Class)
Start time 8.40am - Home Time 3.10pm

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 (Otters Class)
Start time 8.45am - Home Time 3.15pm

Children in Year Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Squirrels Class)
Start time 8.50am - Home Time 3.05pm

(There will be a slight change to the first two days, for the new Reception children, but we'll write to those parents/carers directly)

In addition to the 'staggered' times, the physical drop off and collection need to be organised in a type of 'one-way' system (see map attached) with children being collected from the playground. During the first few weeks in September, we will be trialling the new process and modifying where necessary; please adhere to the timings, it is important that adults and children do not arrive too early or late, as this will create problems with the groups.

Please can I ask that initially, only one parent brings your child/children so that we can avoid gatherings on the school premises and can I also ask that people leave promptly. The main school office will be open, but only to be used for emergencies; please phone or email to arrange any meetings, again to reduce possible spread of infection.

Unfortunately, Breakfast and After School Clubs will not be able to operate, when we very first return after summer; this is because of cross infection and spread of infection, as children from all classes or 'bubbles' attend. Over the holiday, we will be considering how we can offer the clubs safely, as we know some parents are fairly reliant on them.

As I am sure you will agree, the detailed organisation and implementation to get our school back on track is going to be a long one. However, what we need to remember is that we are all in this together. During this lockdown, I have seen us supporting each other, working with each other and caring for each other; the heart and soul of any good school.

I truly hope everyone has the best summer possible. Please stay safe, make the most of any good weather and we look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks

Yours sincerely

Mr T W Emery
Head Teacher

