

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer despite the weather! As promised, I am writing to you prior to the start of term with details to ensure you have all of the information you need for the return of pupils on Monday.

Easing restrictions:

I am sure that you are aware that despite an increase in Covid cases again, schools are no longer required to make use of face coverings or to keep children in ‘bubbles’. We have been very conscious throughout the pandemic of the impact on the mental health of members of our community. To continue to support the pupils in particular, the children will be able to mix outside at lunch and playtimes. We will also have all three classes eating in the hall at lunch time and meet as a whole school for assemblies. The time indoors together will be limited and the space will be well ventilated. The staff are all in agreement that the benefit of increased social contact outweighs the need to keep children apart any longer.

Thorough cleaning of facilities and handwashing will continue as part of our daily routines.

As we are having our assemblies together again, you are invited to join us on site each **Friday at 2.45pm for our weekly Celebration assembly**. Once the children are in the hall, you will be invited in through the front door to sign in and take a seat in the hall. At the moment, attendance will be limited to one adult per family to keep risks as low as possible. At the end of the assembly, you will be asked to leave the hall promptly and exit the front door. The usual entrance gate will be opened for you shortly after this to collect your child(ren) from their external classroom door.

We are keeping some of the positives which came from remote learning. One of these is that you will be able to join us virtually at our Celebration Assembly if you are unable to come to the school. You will be able to join via Google Meet on your child’s Google account at 2.45pm each Friday.

Future Covid cases:

We have an additional risk assessment in place for the event of an outbreak. This can be found on our website. <https://reed.herts.sch.uk/download/covid-outbreak-management-and-supplementary-risk-assessment-august-2021/>

An outbreak is identified through the following criteria:

5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period;

Or

10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

Our Remote Learning Offer stands for any pupils who need to isolate due to Covid which remains on our website for reference.

Guidance from County states:

Children and young people aged under 18 years and 6 months who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend the setting as normal. Parents and carers should be advised to book a PCR test for their child. Of course, if the PCR is positive, that pupil must isolate straight away.

Any child who is experiencing symptoms must not attend and parents and carers should be advised to book a PCR test or speak to their GP.

Children under 4 will not be advised to take a PCR test unless the positive case is someone in their own house.

If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 should still be allowed to attend. If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend.

As ever, please contact the school office or myself head@reed.herts.sch.uk if out of hours to report any positive cases.

If you have any questions about the information, please do ask.

Changes to outside:



Well, I have spent some of my summer filling not one but two skips to make a start on the grounds of the school which have needed attention for some time! Our Early Years playground is being resurfaced this week and I look forward to you seeing it completed (fingers crossed) on Monday!



To help the Early Years staff to keep the new surface and area pristine, we will be limiting the areas used as a walk way. Further details below...

Drop off and Pick up:

In line with restrictions easing, the one-way system for entering and exiting the school is not needed now. As before, the gate next to the main entrance will be opened at 8.45am for all children to walk around to their external classroom door. The bell goes at 8.50am when every child is expected to be on site ready to go into class with their teacher. Once you have dropped off, parents and carers will exit back through the same gate. The same procedure will be in place at 3.15pm at pick up.

Communication:

We pride ourselves in making sure we keep you up to date with what is happening in school. The weekly bulletins via Parentmail to you will recommence and of course our website is always a great place to check anything you are unsure of. If in doubt, please ask myself or Mrs Lasselin in the office.

Please ensure the following is with your child on Monday:

- Clear water bottle with sports top lid (filled)
- PE kit for pupils in Years 1-4 (see website for details)
- Coat
- Sun cream, hat if needed
- Book bag including reading book
- Healthy snack for Junior pupils (Fruit is provided for Early Years, Years One and Two)
- Outdoor welly boots

- **Booked wrap around care starting from Monday 6th September**
- **No clubs, swimming or forest school in week One**

I hope that this is helpful and gives you the information you need for now. We look forward to seeing you on Monday and welcoming new families to every class who I know you will make feel welcome.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Wittich