

Update on Plans for September 2021

Following our full governing body meeting last week, we have made some initial plans for September to adapt to the updated guidance for schools to hopefully transition back to our more normal arrangements. Nearer September, I will send out a breakdown to each year group separately so that you know where to drop off and collect/ times and any other relevant information, but below is the key information so that you can make initial plans for drop off/pick up. (A word of warning – this is subject to change **if** the national guidance for schools changes in August!)

School Start Times

- All year groups will go back to our official start time of **8.50am**. Doors will open at **8.40am** to allow a 10 minute drop off window – in the first week, we will open doors slightly earlier at 8.35am for Y1-Y6 children whilst we are getting back in to the new routines. New YR – see separate communication for your child's starting school session times. Children should not be arriving on site prior to 8.35am.
- Parents are permitted back on to site, but we would request that children in Y4 – Y6 walk on to site independently whenever possible, unless arriving with younger siblings.
- Drop off for Y3s will be at the office door initially as this has been working well.
- Y1/2 parents may bring children round to the piazza, but we ask for Y1 children to be dropped at the Y1 outdoor classroom gate to walk up to class by themselves, and Y2 children should be dropped at the bottom of the steps nearest to their classroom – parents will not be permitted on to patio areas or into classrooms.
- If you children starting in YR in September and have siblings in Y1/2, your Y1/2 child can enter the school via the back door to the Y1 corridor once your YR child is starting at the usual time.
- Any year groups may use the main gate or the rear gate. Gates will shut just before 9am and parents are asked to leave the grounds swiftly after drop off.
- Any children arriving on site late (after 8.50am) must come to the school office to be marked in.

End of the Day

- We will be moving towards all year groups finishing at 3.15pm but this will be phased in over first few weeks. Parents should not come onto the school site before 3pm initially.
- A Parentmail form will go out to younger year groups nearer September so that you can let the teacher know the usual arrangements for collection of your child at the end of the day (e.g. parent/childminder/after school club etc).

First few weeks

- YR – see separate info for the shorter sessions. Once your child is full time, the collection window will be from 3.05 – 3.15pm from classroom doors. Those with siblings in Y1/2 (or who are met by one of our larger childminder groups) will be brought to the small playground which is next to the Y1 adventure playground at 3.15pm.
- Y1 – collection window from 3.05 – 3.10pm from classrooms – parents may enter the Y1 outdoor classroom in front of their child's class (1R parents stand on the piazza near the Y1 gate) so that they can be easily seen by teachers to dismiss the children. Please depart swiftly – those waiting for children in Y2/3 may wait on the piazza for their older child. Once teachers are more familiar with recognising parents we hope that Y1 will move to a slightly later pick up time.
- Y2 – collection at 3.15pm from the piazza in front of the Y2 classrooms.
- Y3 – we will be moving towards the children coming out of class independently, but initially they will be walked out of class by the teachers to help them get used to where they will be meeting you. Those with younger siblings in Y1/2 will be sent to the piazza to meet parents. Others will be walked to the playcourt between **3.10 and 3.15pm** then walked out to the gate. Any Y3 parents who would like to meet their child on the school site are therefore encouraged to come to the playcourt for

3.10pm – we will be asking Y3 parents **not** to wait outside the Y3 classrooms by the adventure playground as this can create a bottle neck.

- Y4 children will be walked out of class with their teacher – you will be asked to let your child know if you would like them to walk out to meet you on Rookery Avenue. All others will be walked around towards the main gate. If you would like to wait onsite, you may stand on the playcourt, basketball court or the grass at the front of the school – just let your child know where to meet you, avoiding meeting points which are on the pathways to keep these clear.
- We are going to continue walking the Y5/6 children out to the gate as a class at **3.15pm**, and would ask that parents meet your child off site unless you are picking up younger siblings. Please let your child know which gate to go to at 3.15pm. Once we have assessed how the new arrangements work, we may invite parents of older children to wait onsite.

One-Way System

- To help with the flow of pedestrians at the start and end of the day, we will be keeping our informal one-way systems (keep left from the office gate; keep right from the main and rear gates). This will help to ensure that parents can continue to make drop offs and pick ups swift and help to avoid congestion. If using the Rookery entrance, the slope and steps can be used in both directions so parents collecting from the piazza may come straight down the steps rather than using the slope.

Mask Policy

- We will be applying the ‘Chris Witty’ approach to mask wearing on site! The key phrase will be social responsibility, rather than social distancing, showing understanding that not everyone will be comfortable with the return to ‘normal’ and the busier environment.
- Within the school building, all adults will continue to be required to wear masks in corridors, toilets and the staff kitchen as these are more crowded spaces where distancing is not possible when busy. Visitors to the school will be asked to wear masks if coming into the building for meetings until they are seated.
- In the grounds, mask wearing will not be enforced, but we would encourage parents to do so if you are collecting children in any of the busier areas where distancing is not possible. We would also ask that you wear a mask if approaching a member of staff to talk with them at close quarters.

In school arrangements

The new guidance makes clear that schools do not need to keep the ‘bubble’ arrangements in September. We will therefore be gradually getting the children used to mixing with their year group / pairs of year groups before moving to our old lunchtime arrangements where all children can mix on the all-weather pitch, but with designated areas for our youngest and oldest pupils who don’t wish to mix with others. We have a couple of weeks until new Year R start full time, and during that period we will have additional staff available at lunchtimes to help our new Y1 and Y2 children get into the new routines.

We will be returning to assemblies for pairs of year groups in the hall, but initially keeping our whole school ‘Azoomblies’ on a Friday.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information contained in the above. I will be sending out a parentmail form for you to indicate any questions you have prior to September to help me compile further guidance for parents nearer the time.

As we have done this year, we will review arrangements in the first few weeks and keep you informed of any changes. All schools are also asked to have a contingency plan should there be any local lockdowns/additional measures – these will be similar to our arrangements this year, and we will update you of this should the need arise (let’s hope not!)