

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you and full opening September 2020

First of all, thank you all of you for being so supportive of us throughout these unprecedented times. Your messages of support and thanks have been so appreciated. We wish our Year 6 pupils every success as they move on to secondary school next year. I was so proud to read their career ambitions for the future in their Leavers' Yearbooks, and sincerely hope that these are achieved.

In line with government guidelines, we are delighted to warmly welcome back all pupils in September 2020. The start of term will be **Thursday 3rd September**. We have been advised to return to our pre-lockdown expectations regarding attendance. The only COVID-19 reason for authorised absence will be if you are following clinical or public health advice to keep your child out of school.

Ensuring pupil, staff and family safety will continue to be our absolute priority. We have reviewed our systems and organisation and introduced measures to help protect the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff and families.

Drop off and pick up routines

To reduce the number of people on the school site, in the interest of infection control, parents/carers will not be allowed to gather in the playground, or enter the buildings to drop off or collect children. For the same reason **we will be operating staggered start and end times each day. Please ensure your child arrives promptly for the start of the morning session, and that you arrive promptly at the times below to collect your child.**

The timings are as follows:

Nursery; no change

Reception: no change. 8:50 – 3:10. Parents may hand over their children to the teachers in their classes from 8:40am

Year 1: 8:50 – 3:10

Year 2: 9:00 – 3:20

Year 3 and Year 4: 8:40 – 3:05

Year 5 and Year 6: 9:00 – 3:25

On entry to the school you will be guided to the route and the external classroom entrance where you are to drop off and collect your child. Children must be with you at all times up to the drop off/pick up point. If you have children in different year groups, you will be able to drop off siblings from 8:40, to avoid waiting. Similarly, at the end of the day, siblings in other year groups will wait in their classrooms if you are picking up at 3:25 or 3:20. No cars will be allowed on site, except if you require disabled parking. If this is the case please email head@sheredesprimary.herts.sch.uk in advance, so that arrangements can be made.

Pupil groupings

To reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible, children will be taught in class and year group 'bubbles'. Children in Nursery and Reception will be taught in groups within their class bubbles.

Children in Years 1 to 6 will also be taught in class bubbles. In these classrooms, tables will be arranged so that children are seated side by side and forward facing. For the majority of the time children will be kept in their class groups, with the allowance of mixing into a wider year group bubble for some teaching, such as setting in mathematics for Years 4 to 6, and booster lessons for Year 6. Staff will maintain distancing at all times as far as is possible.

Children will be taught the new layouts and rules, for example using sanitiser 'stations' and washing their hands regularly, for example on entry to their classrooms, before and after all breaks.

Classroom resources

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pens and pencils, it is recommended that pupils have their own items that are not shared. Each child will be equipped with their own pencil, set of colouring pencils, pen (from Year 3 onwards), eraser, pencil sharpener, ruler, glue stick and scissors. Additional items will be provided to Year groups where they are frequently used, for example protractors for Year 6. **For Years 3 to 6 we ask that you provide your child with a pencil case that they can leave in school**, to house these items. If you are not able to do this, we do have small zippy wallets.

Children are asked to wear their washable school uniform and bring in their own water bottle. They will also need their P.E. kit and reading book. Returned reading books will be quarantined for 72 hours before being re-issued. Bags are allowed.

Clubs, trips and visits

We intend to offer breakfast and after-school provision, and we are liaising with Jousters to enable this. All other clubs, trips and visits will be reviewed and offered where possible and practicable.

Illness

Children must not be sent into school if unwell, both for COVID-19 or any other illness/symptoms. Please let us know. If someone becomes unwell, they will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19 infection guidance www.government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home.

We care very much for all our children and will do the best we can, and will look after your children the best we can, under these challenging circumstances. You are very welcome to email me on head@sheredesprimary.herts.sch.uk should you have any queries.

We will continue to use Schoolcomms to communicate with you regularly, and provide further updates.

Kindest regards

Mrs. Childs