

Dear all,

As you know we have been given the go ahead to open fully on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to all children. We are excited to get back to some sort of normality and are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school. I know it is a strange time and that you, and the children, will have mixed feeling about the return to school.

This letter contains information about the return and should help to answer any of your questions.

### **A FEW CHANGES FOR NEXT WEEK**

All week - Zoom sessions (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March) will be class based and will provide opportunities for your children to raise any questions or concerns related to returning back to school.

All week – Yoga will take place in school NOT through zoom

All week – Story time will not be resuming this week. Thankyou Mrs Weston for the wonderful stories that you have told.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March – World book day. Class teachers will be sharing ideas for World book day with you this week.

### **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

- All primary school children are to return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Attendance is deemed mandatory.

### **SMOOTH TRANSITION**

- We would like to offer all of our children the opportunity to come to school and take part in a yoga session before they join full time on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is **not** compulsory, just the chance for them to meet with their friends and to feel settled and calm. Children should be dropped off at the main school entrance (remembering government social distancing rules) and collected from the double gates adjacent to the hard area. The dates and times for these sessions can be found on the diary dates on our website and also on class dojo. As a reminder:  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Y6 9.00 – 10.00  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Y5 10.30 - 11.30  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March Y4 9.00 – 10.00  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March Y3 10.30 - 11.30  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March Y2 9.00 – 10.00  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March Y1 10.30 – 11.30  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March EYFS 12.30 – 1.30
- Parent catch up evenings. During the evening of the second week back to school – Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March there will be the opportunity for Parents to talk to class teachers via zoom or phone call. This is a 'catch up meeting' to give you the opportunity to talk about how your child has been during lockdown at home. This will also give the teachers the chance to let you know how they have settled back into school. This is **not a formal parents evening**, where we would usually talk about how your child is doing emotionally, academically and any assessments etc. – but an informal transition/ wellbeing hand over discussion. You

have been extraordinarily committed to your child's emotional needs at this strange time and have had to juggle this with remote learning. We recognise that every child will have had a different remote learning experience. Our priority now, is to settle them back into school and a regular rhythm of learning.

### **KEEPING SAFE**

All of the safety measures that were in place before the last lockdown such as the staggered start and end of the day, one way system, reinforcement of the use of sanitising stations, timetabling of the use of the outside area, children working in bubbles, etc. will continue. In addition to this:

- Staff will continue to take two lateral flow COVID-19 tests as per the government guidelines, each week, at home.
- Face coverings will be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible, outside of the classroom.
- KS2 drop off: There will be a member of staff present on the gate to welcome children and parents. Please feel free to drop your child at the gate if they are in KS2.
- Home School Agreement. We have amended our Home school agreement to include aspects of safety re Covid. These will be sent home with your child during the first week back. Please can you read, sign them and return them to the school office via the box outside of the main door.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

- Free School Meals Children in year 3 and above.  
If your circumstances have changed your child may be eligible for Free School Meals. For more details please go to [www.essex.gov.uk/freeschool-meals](http://www.essex.gov.uk/freeschool-meals) If you are awarded Free School Meals please email a copy of the letter to the school so we are aware of your change in circumstances.

I look forward to meeting the children during yoga next week.

Remember that I am in school if you have any questions and want to email me  
Have a lovely safe weekend.

Sue Dodd