**School Return Plans- 2nd September 2021**

These plans have been developed in line with government and Local Authority guidance regarding schools returning in September 2021.

We will continue to review plans on a regular basis and in line with subsequent government and local authority guidance. Currently transmission rates are still quite high, so we will continue to implement a range of safety measures to keep all children, staff and families safe and well, including:

* Regular handwashing – children, staff and visitors
* Limiting visitors to school – essential visits only during the first half term – this will be reviewed weekly in line with transmission rates.
* Advice is to limit the use of public transport by staff, families and children wherever possible.
* Children, staff, parents/carers and visitors must not attend school if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms, must self-isolate immediately and arrange to take a PCR test.
* Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 must take a PCR test and share results with school when they are received.
* Staff will continue to take lateral flow tests twice per week.
* Families are encouraged to continue to test children before returning to school and twice per week using lateral flow tests.
* Allocated dining areas for classes – two classes per area now rather than just one, to allow more socialisation but continue to take precautions to limit infection transmission.
* Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
* Following Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.
* Children can bring their own pencil case, lunch box and water bottle to school, but no toys should be brought to school. Advice is still for us to limit items which are brought into school from home.

**What is changing?**

* Mixing and ‘bubbles’ – keeping children in bubbles to reduce mixing is no longer a requirement.
* Staggered start and end times – are no longer required as children can mix.
* Staff are not required to wear a face covering but may continue to do so if they wish. This also applies to parents/carers.
* Clubs and off-site visits can resume.
* Parents/carer can come to main reception, although during the first term we are still encouraging parents to make contact by telephone or arrange an appointment to avoid unnecessary face to face contact and mixing. If you do need to speak to reception staff, please try to avoid 8.45-9.15 am as they support children coming into school at this time and are unlikely to be available.
* Breakfast club is open to all families, not just working parents, but we do have a limit of 20 places per day and this must still be booked and paid for in advance via Parentmail please.
* Children can now bring books and reading records home from school.
* Parents/carers with a current, valid Blue parking badge may drive into school to drop off/collect children. Please contact the school office to arrange a time to show a copy of your badge for our records. We cannot allow access without a current, valid badge. Parents/carers who do access the site by car must park in a designated parking space and not stop/park outside the main doors please.

**School day timings and other information**

Our school day will begin at **8.50 am** and end at **3.10 pm** (For children new to Reception, Miss Scutt will send a separate letter with transition timings and arrangements).

Children should be brought to the **lower playground gate or middle gate** where a member of staff will greet them and direct them to line up on the playground in their classes. Gates will be opened at **8.45 am**.

Children who travel by SEN transport, or those who have mobility issues, can enter school via the main front gate.

Children will line up on the playground and be taken into school by their teacher at **8.50 am**.

Parents will not be allowed onto the site in the mornings but will be allowed to come onto the playground at the end of the day to collect the children. Many of the children find busy periods overwhelming so this will give them a calmer, less busy start to the day, and will also allow staff to get the children into school promptly.

If a parent/carer would like to speak to a member of staff, please ring the office to make an appointment, or you can speak to the teacher at the end of the day, but we ask that you please wait until they have safely dismissed all children to their parents/carers before speaking to them. This is to ensure that we keep everyone safe.

At the end of the day, the children will line up in their classes and be dismissed to their relevant parent/carer. All parents/carers must wait on the playground please and not the paths – this allows anyone in wheelchairs, those with mobility issues, people with prams/buggies, to safely make their way to the playground. It will also ensure that teachers can keep all of the class group together and safely dismiss them.

We are really looking forward to welcoming families back onto the school site but want to make sure that this is done in a way which is safe for everyone, allows people who wish to keep a distance between them and others to do so, and does not overwhelm the children, as they have not been used to seeing large groups gathering at school for almost two years.

**Breakfast club:**

* Breakfast club must be booked and paid for in advance via Parentmail. If you have any issues with booking/payment, please contact Mrs Formby in the school office [sec.thebrow@halton.gov.uk](mailto:sec.thebrow@halton.gov.uk)
* Parents/carers must not drive into school to drop children off for breakfast club.
* Breakfast club will open at 7.45 am each day.
* Parents/carers should walk children to the hall door via the front pedestrian gate. Last entry to breakfast club is 8.30 am.
* Miss Barton will be our Breakfast Club Leader during Miss Oates’ maternity leave.

**Uniform and PE kit:**

* Children must return to school in full uniform and black school shoes – not trainers.
* **School uniform** – white shirt/blouse, grey skirt/pinafore or trousers, school tie, school jumper or cardigan, navy or grey socks.
* To limit items being brought to school and to ensure no teaching time is wasted, children may wear PE kit for school on their PE day. But this MUST be school PE kit – no football kit, own clothes etc.
* **PE kit** – plain white t-shirt or school white PE t-shirt, navy blue shorts, skort or tracksuit bottoms, trainers, school hoodie or plain navy sweatshirt.
* Class teachers will share class information, including PE days, when we return to school.
* Swimming – on swimming days, children should wear their full school uniform and bring their swimming kit to school with them.
* Long hair must be tied back and only bobbles/hairbands in school colours should be worn – navy, blue or grey.
* **No jewellery** should be worn by children.
* Children should have a suitable outdoor coat in cold or wet weather as they will still go outside to play and for fresh air.

**Lunch and snacks**

* School meals will be served in the hall each day. **Please ensure that you order your child’s lunch online via School Grid in advance.**
* Please see the school ‘Healthy Eating and Drinking’ policy on our website for information on packed lunches.
* Children may bring a water bottle to school and are encourages to drink water throughout the day. Juice or fizzy drinks will not be allowed. Please ensure that their bottle is named. Children will be asked to take the bottle home to be cleaned each day. In accordance with Halton’s Covid Risk Assessment (which can be seen on our school website), water fountains are not allowed to be used in schools. Water will be provided at lunchtime in the hall.
* Children in EYFS and KS1 will receive free fruit each day for their morning snack.
* KS2 children may bring a healthy snack from home for morning break – fruit, vegetable, low sugar cereal bar, other healthy snack – children will not be allowed to eat biscuits, crisps, or sweets, so please do not send them in.
* Birthdays – during the last academic year we were unable to take in birthday cakes/treats due to guidance on the pandemic. However, if you wish to send these things in on your child’s birthday for them to share with their classmates, we will be happy to distribute them. We know how much the children have missed these important aspects of their celebrations.

A huge thank you on behalf of all of the staff team and governors to all of our children and families for working with us over the last two academic years to make the best of such a difficult situation. We are really looking forward to seeing the children back in school next week and to welcoming families back to school. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with the guidance above, to ensure a smooth, safe and happy return to school for everyone.

Kind regards,

**Mrs L. Webb**

Headteacher