

Welcome to the New School Year

Firstly, a huge hello to our new parents and welcome back to those who have been with us over the years.

School returns on Wednesday and it will be very different for us all. Over 60% of you sent your children back in during the main lockdown and those children adjusted very easily to the changes. We know that other schools across the country who started last week have reported just how easily their children adapted to the changes too. As a dad of two boys, both returning this week after nearly 6 months away from school, I know you might be worried and anxious. In fact, we all are. None of us have ever experienced a pandemic and the effects it has had on us. We have worked hard to make sure the plans in place minimise risk for everyone and allow us to provide an education, both academic and pastoral which is important after what has happened.

Changes to the school day

We have had to follow the guidance to ensure that children remain in class/year group bubbles and do not mix. You'll know that our main building is 90 years old and doesn't have many doors. That means getting children in, washing hands and in a room before another group of children arrive, cannot be done without a staggered start. This will be under review and we will change this if needed. While it is an inconvenience, it is for everyone and I am sorry about that, but safety for all comes first.

Start and end of day

Please arrive at the right time. Once you have dropped off, move away from the gate so we can let the next group in. If you need to wait please move up or down Flaxley Road and remember to social distance.

Contact

The office will be double checking all numbers and contact details over the next week or so. Please make sure we have up to date contact numbers in case we need to get hold of you in an emergency. This will be important too if we need to track and trace.

Attendance

The Government now expects everyone to return to school. We would encourage you to send your child and we will send them home if we feel they cannot cope. The first week will be tiring, so we will adapt the learning to work around that. Should any child or adult develop symptoms of Covid we will be in touch to advise on testing and the latest guidance we have at the time.

Breakfast/After School Club

Due to the restrictions in place, places are limited. Breakfast club starts at 8am and there are no options for late arrivals. After School Club begins when the first year group bubble goes home. Details about both clubs will be given on booking. **Places must be booked well in advance and not just a few minutes before clubs start.**

Internet and Home Learning

Should we be in a position where a child needs to isolate or a group of children need to isolate the Government now expect us to provide work to the same standard as school. In order to know how we can best meet all children's needs we will be sending home a simple survey to ask whether you have access to a pc/tablet, have internet access or whether we need to send home a learning pack from school. Watch out for this as it will really help us provide a speedy response should it be needed.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo will be the main form of contact between parents, teachers and pupils. Please make sure you have the most up to date people logged on and that you have access to the app. You can also log in via a computer too if needs be. Please also remember that staff will not be responding 24/7 as they have their own lives and families outside the school day. They will keep you updated on what is happening in the classroom.

Absence

Should your child be absent for any reason please contact school ASAP. The sooner we know where children are the better, otherwise we might have to start our safeguarding procedures.

Office

Please note the office during the day is closed. If appointments are needed please call school, but in order to keep children safe most meetings will be conducted over the phone or outside. We need to minimise the adults in the building. Someone from the office will be available at the start and end of the day at the main gate.

School dinners

We are one of few schools hoping to run meals every day. We think we have a plan and we will be in touch if it doesn't work on Wednesday. School meals cost **£2.70, we are asking parents to pay in advance with exact cash in a named envelope as change cannot be given straight away. Weekly dinner cost is £13.50** The menu for this term is attached to this email as well so you can discuss options with your child beforehand.

Events

At the moment we are not allowed to hold events. We are looking at ways of doing these online and more details will come soon. Weekly and daily assemblies will be broadcast to the classrooms and certificates will still be issued in a way secure with Covid requirements.

Coats and jumpers

It is important that children have coats and also a jumper. Covid means we have to have windows open all year round and the rooms can get cold, so being able to wrap up warm is important. Please try to send your child every day with a coat and jumper.

School Crossing

I'm pleased to say we have a school crossing patrol again from Wednesday. We will be asking which children in Year 5 and 6, possibly Year 4 have permission to walk home. This will speed up the exit process at the end of the day too. If you know someone else is picking

your child up, either make sure we have passwords or call school so that the teacher can have that info to make the end of the day easier.

Letters

The website has all the information you need, including the holiday calendar.

<https://selbycp.selby.ac.uk/letters/>

<https://selbycp.selby.ac.uk/holidays/>

On the Coronavirus page there is also copies of the letters about each class and their routines.

I know there is a lot of information to understand. We don't know all the answers but keeping children in year or class bubbles keeps them safer. It will be a new way of working for us all and while there may be tears from children saying goodbye to parents at the gate, once children know the routine they will become happier. Tears are normal in any school year, we might just see a few more as children adjust to the new normal. I will update you later in the week with any changes or updates we need to run.

Thank you as always for your continued support and understanding. Here's to a new school year and a chance for us to continue educating back on site.

Best wishes

Mr Clennan