



Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh
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Newsletter - Friday 22nd May 2020

We have arrived at another half term holiday after what we would all consider to be a very unusual half term. It has been a very busy half term for all the staff at Whinfield.

Next week is the May half term holiday so we hope that the lovely weather returns. The staff will not be setting any online work over the half term holidays.

I expect many of you will be wondering just what the staff have been doing whilst Lockdown has been in place. As you will appreciate, learning never stops whether you are young or a teacher! Staff have: rewritten policies, complied curriculum documentation ready for teaching in September, written reports, attended meetings via Teams, been in school as part of the Childcare rota, planned and marked Home Learning Activities, further developed IT skills, developed our school blog pages on Purple Mash, organised/ordered/delivered FSM vouchers, distributed weekly Home Learning packs, stayed in contact with families through emails and phone calls etc etc - the list is endless and I am extremely grateful for their dedication, particularly across the holiday periods when our work hasn't stopped.

The staff have thoroughly enjoyed looking at the Home Learning that children have done and are excited to see the entries for the 'Whinfield Artist' Safety Signs set for half term - some have already started to come in so keep designing everyone!

I know you are all keen to know what will happen after 1st. June so we have compiled some frequently asked questions below that we have been asked by parents/carers complete with the answers.

The Prime Minister will speak on Thursday 28th May to confirm whether schools will be expected to open to more year groups from 1st. June. We have already communicated with you through a questionnaire, so we have numbers ready for our planning. Please be reminded that the partial return, in addition to Childcare, is for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 only - there is no date yet for the other year groups.

We will be in touch with you regarding specific dates, routines and expectations after the half term holiday. Some changes will include no bikes or scooters to be brought to school, pupils can wear their uniform or informal clothing so that these can be easily washed so they can wear clean clothes each day. Any child with symptoms will not be allowed in school and we will follow all Public Health England advice.

We would like to thank parents and carers for all your support and kind messages as well as all that you are doing to continue your children's education in challenging circumstances. Please continue to make the most of your time at home with your children.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.



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Parental Frequently Asked Questions 22nd May 2020

Questions	Answers
<p>Will childcare continue for critical workers?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Government guidance is for schools to continue to support the fight against COVID 19 by providing childcare for critical workers wherever possible.</p> <p>Government guidance details which workers are eligible to access childcare: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</p> <p>HOWEVER, pupils will be required to attend full days from 8th June. All children will have an allocated entrance/exit each morning and end of the day so we will no longer have the capacity for flexible drop off / pick up.</p> <p>Childcare will continue to be booked weekly as your shifts change.</p> <p>It is not currently anticipated that childcare for critical workers will continue after 18th July.</p>
<p>Do I have to send my child back to school?</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>The Government have issued guidance to schools and families strongly encouraging children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).</p> <p>HOWEVER: Parents should note that attendance is not currently compulsory, no fines will be issued if they choose not to send their child to school at this time.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june</p> <p>You will all have received a questionnaire this week asking if your child will return to school or not.</p> <p>IF you plan to send their child back to school, we will be in touch as we are creating a plan to begin wider opening across the month of June. PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL NOT BE FROM 1ST JUNE - MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.</p>
<p>My child has a medical /health condition; do they have to come back to school?</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>The Government have issued clear guidance for families with vulnerable children or adults, including those shielding with health conditions.</p>





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	<p>School will be following the guidance.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people#attendance-expectations-and-encouraging-attendance</p>
<p>Can I change my mind once school is open and send my child back to school?</p>	<p>The current Government guidance is requesting schools to implement social distancing which means each school has a limited number of places available.</p> <p>You will appreciate this requires a huge amount of planning to accommodate children in the 'groups' suggested to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>We therefore request that whatever decision you make that you stick to it.</p> <p>Once your child returns to school, they will be allocated a group known as a 'bubble' of no more than 15 children. It is expected they will remain in the bubble throughout each day enabling social distancing and limiting the spread of the virus between bubbles.</p> <p>It is expected your child will attend school on all the days allocated to them unless they are ill or there are COVID symptoms in the family. If your child experiences COVID symptoms the school will expect they are taken to be tested and then we are advised of the outcome as this will impact on all the children in that 'bubble.'</p> <p>IF you decide at a later date you want your child to return and there is capacity at the time, they will be able to return. However, school will need at least 7 days' notice to prepare the new risk assessments and creation of new or different 'bubbles' to accommodate more pupils.</p>
<p>Will we be told if the teacher will change before my child returns?</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>In these unprecedented times we are sorry it is not possible to ensure a specific member of staff will be teaching your child.</p> <p>Each group will, wherever, possible be allocated the same member of staff each day / week.</p> <p>However, you will appreciate some members of staff will be required to continue working at home to provide the home learning for pupils not attending school.</p>
<p>Will Home Learning continue if I choose not to send my child back to school?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Home Learning will continue.</p> <p>Some staff will work in school and some will continue to work at home.</p>
<p>Will school maintain social distancing?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Government guidance indicates that schools should continue to maintain social distancing wherever possible.</p> <p>We can only do this with your help.</p>



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	<p>IT WILL TAKE THE WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING.</p> <p>New rules will include: Only one parent can drop off / pick up. New start / end times to the day will be issued to each group. Scheduling of facilities will be in place e.g. lunch hall. New rules for pupil behaviour in school will be introduced. Signage will be displayed across the school as a reminder.</p>
<p>My child is anxious about returning. What will you do about it?</p>	<p>It is vital parents continue to reassure children and encourage active and healthy habits e.g. Avoiding watching news which increases anxiety etc.</p> <p>School will be nurturing pupils upon their return to school to ensure support and offer reassurance where and when needed.</p>
<p>Will Staff be wearing PPE?</p>	<p>The Government have issued clear guidance on PPE in school which we will be following:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p>
<p>When will my child know if they have been allocated a place to return?</p>	<p>We will be publishing a phased plan for each year group to return as soon as possible. Those parents who have requested a place to start will be contacted through 'School Comms' as soon as we are able to with details of dates and times.</p> <p>The earliest we anticipate additional year groups returning is 15th June, however, we will continue to monitor the situation daily and keep you informed.</p> <p>IT IS CRUCIAL YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE UP TO DATE WITH THE SCHOOL OFFICE.</p>
<p>Will school close for the summer holidays as normal?</p>	<p>It is currently anticipated that school will break up for the summer holidays as planned on 18th July.</p>
<p>What are the plans for September and when will I find out who will be my child's teacher in September?</p>	<p>It is too early to predict what will happen in September as the situation is still evolving.</p> <p>Staffing for September will be decided firstly, once we have clear guidance from the Government and secondly, once we have ensured the proposed return to school of additional children is fully risk assessed and running.</p> <p>Please reassure your child that when the time is right, they will meet their new teacher. We are monitoring the situation daily and will share information when it is available.</p> <p>Curriculum and catch up learning will be explored in September using Government guidance and teacher knowledge and expertise of your child.</p>



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<p>Will hot school meals be provided?</p>	<p>YES School meals will be provided as normal when your child returns. These will be charged at £2.10 a day unless your child is entitled to a free meal (FSM or UIFSM). Alternatively, your child may bring a packed lunch, but the box must be cleaned every day before being sent to school and again when it is brought home from school. Please notify the school office if you are changing your meal pattern.</p>
<p>Will Free School Meals vouchers still be provided?</p>	<p>For those pupils attending school a free school meal will be provided in school (FSM and UIFSM). For those pupils continuing to learn at home FSM vouchers will continue to be provided through the Government Edenred Scheme.</p>
<p>Can my child attend their individual Music lesson via Zoom?</p>	<p>NO Unfortunately, Zoom will not come through the school internet security settings so it is not possible for remote music lessons to happen.</p>
<p>Will Playtimes & PE still happen?</p>	<p>YES Government guidance encourages outdoor education as much as possible so your child will enjoy PE and playtimes.</p>
<p>Will Breakfast & Afterschool childcare be available?</p>	<p>NO It is not currently possible to offer breakfast and afterschool childcare because of the staggered drop off and pick up times of the groups to enable social distancing. As soon as we can offer this again, we will let you know,</p>