

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are beginning to look towards the end of this academic year which has changed our lives and routines dramatically and brought so many challenges both for our school and families.

The end of this school year is very different as will be the beginning of the upcoming school year in September. We would like to thank parents and carers for managing the last few months and supporting your children with their learning.

Of course, we want to thank the children! Our children have had to adapt to a new way of learning at home. They have shown resilience and strength and have amazed us all. Well done! They too have faced uncertainty and will be nervous about returning to school in September.

With this in mind and looking ahead to the 2020-2021 academic year, we want to share some important information for planning our return. We have put a number of measures in place to protect all children and staff. However please be aware that this is an ever-changing situation and we will keep you updated via our website and Facebook at the end of the summer holiday if we need to adapt our plans.

Plans for 3rd September until 23rd October:

We will have 2 'bubbles' in school

- Bubble 1 Early Years – Reception and Nursery children in the Lower School building
- Bubble 2 Key Stage 1 – Year 1 and Year 2 in the Upper School building

We will aim to keep these bubbles separate for most of the time, however, all children will eat together in the hall (at different tables) and on the yard where they will use different areas. This is because we only have a limited number of staff to supervise children with additional needs and at play and lunch time.

Arriving and leaving school

- There will be a one-way system in the school grounds which must be followed. Please arrive using the 'side walkway' to the rear of the school, deliver your child to their entrance and then leave using the Station Road gate.
- Please do not arrive early as we ask that you observe social distancing and that your child stands with you while you wait. The doors will open at 8.50am.
- Children will use their normal entrance and collection points (Nursery, Reception and KS 1).
- When you collect your child we ask that you wait on the school yard in view of the School Hall (KS1) or Reception door (Reception and Nursery children accessing the 30 hour provision). Again, please observe social distancing whilst waiting.

- Parents and carers will not be allowed into the school building and if you need to speak to a member of staff it must be by prior appointment.
- We will not be running breakfast club until later in the school term and then it will be for **key workers only**. If you think you may require this, please contact the school office (office@smhwkt.cumbria.sch.uk or 01900608111).

Staying Safe

- Hand washing will continue to be high priority and hand sanitiser is available throughout school – please do not send hand sanitiser or soap into school as we already have child friendly products in school. We also have aqueous cream available should children have sore hands due to the increase in washing.
- Deep cleaning will take place at the end of every day as well as continuous cleaning throughout the day.
- If your child has any symptoms please do not bring them into school but call the office for advice. I have attached a flowchart which details current Government guidance on schools response in the event of a child or adult developing symptoms of COVID-19.
- If your child show symptoms at school we will contact you right away and Public Health England guidance will be followed. Please ensure we have up to date contact details for at least 3 people for our records.
- Children will be expected to wear full school uniform apart from on one day per week when they will wear a full PE kit - shorts/joggers, trainers, uniform T shirt and school sweat shirt (you will be informed of this day in September).
- Please do not bring any toys, teddies or scooters to school.
- The Government has confirmed that attendance is compulsory and the usual attendance procedures will apply. However, if your child has been given clinical guidance please can you contact school in September and we will discuss how we can support you.

How are we going to return to learning and teaching the curriculum?

- We will welcome children back to school, identify gaps in their learning and re-establish good progress in the 'essentials' (Phonics and Reading, increasing vocabulary, Writing and Maths.) We aim to do this as quickly as possible.
- We will then identify opportunities across the curriculum so that children can read widely and begin to access a wider curriculum.
- We are introducing a new teaching program to teach Phonics, Reading and Writing called Read Write Inc. More information to follow in September.
- We will develop their knowledge and vocabulary.
- We will focus on supporting children's emotional wellbeing and help them to adapt to the new 'normal'.

While Reading, Writing and Maths are essential we will keep our curriculum broad so that pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year (e.g Science, Geography, History, PE, Art, RE).

We will be holding 'socially distanced' parent's meetings in September for families who are new to school. The meetings will be 1:1 and will take place in the Nursery and Reception classrooms.

The meetings will be held on the 3rd and 4th of September and our new Nursery and Reception families have been informed of their induction timetable.

Key Stage 1 children will all return to full time school on Wednesday the 3rd of September.

We would also like to wish our Year 2 children all the best as they move on to Junior school. We are holding a leavers event on the school yard but unfortunately will not be able to have our usual celebrations and activities. We hope they will go on to enjoy the next part of their learning adventure and we will miss them all.

We will keep you updated on the progress of our return to school plan and any changes which may occur, but please know I have every confidence that our staff will deliver a fun, challenging and excellent curriculum upon our return.

I wish you all well and hope that you have a relaxed Summer Holiday. Please stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 3rd September.

Thank you

Mrs Anne Richardson
Headteacher