

## Important information regarding re-opening of schools in September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of ALL pupils,

I am delighted to finally write to you all with our plans for September and the return of all pupils to Dee Point. It is really hard to truly comprehend the last few months and the impact it has had on us all but I want to share with you some optimism and positive thinking in the fact that within a couple of months we'll all be back together. Whilst plans are still different from the initial closure of the school in March, it does mean we will all be in school and heading back to some kind of normality. Hopefully you have already received your child's end of year report and the letter telling you which class they will be in next year. I have some crucial information for you all in this letter that I hope supports you in preparing for the children returning in September.

### **The School Day – Start & Finish Times**

The most important piece of information you will need is the timetable at the end of this letter as this will indicate what time your child will need to be in school and what time they will need to be collected. Like before, if you have younger or older children then you will bring the child who starts earliest and collect at the earliest time too. For example, if you have a child in Reception and one in Year 4 then you would drop both children off at 9 – 9.15 (Y3/4 drop off because it is the earliest) and collect them both at 3.15 (Nurs / Rec collection time because it is the earliest). We will ensure siblings arrive at the class that you are picking up from. Importantly these drop off and pick up times must be strictly adhered to and parents / carers must not arrive earlier or later than the designated times as we will need to keep the children in these 'bubbles' throughout the day. There is a one way system to come in and out of the school which will still be in operation from September.

### **What is a class 'bubble?'**

You may have heard in the press or elsewhere the term 'bubble'. I thought it would be useful to explain this to you. Basically from September, to reduce the risk of spreading infection, the children will be in class bubbles. So for example we have a drop off time for Year 1 & 2 between 8.30 – 8.45 so all of those classes, Moon, Earth, Venus and Mercury must arrive in that time slot. These children will then spend the day within their class bubble. At playtime they will remain in their class bubble and play in a designated zone in the playground; similarly at lunchtime they will have a seating area that is only for their class bubble so we are restricting the risk of spreading infection by keeping their class together as much as possible. It is important when parents come to school to drop off or collect that you do this as quickly as possible. Parents and carers will still not be allowed to enter the school building with their child and you must leave them at the door and leave as quickly as possible.

### **What can my child bring to school?**

I want ALL children back in FULL school uniform from September please and children can only bring the following: a school coat, PE kit, a lunch box (if you have a packed lunch) and a water bottle. This is something new, but from September we would like all parents and carers to provide their child with a drinks water bottle. This will go home with your child each day and be cleaned by yourselves and returned to school the following morning. We are no longer providing cups due to the risk of cross contamination and we don't have capacity to dish wash 460 cups each evening. On parent pay we have sourced water bottles that we can provide for you at a cost of £2.50 each. These can be purchased at any point between now and the start of next term. Please label these when they arrive in school. Only water is to be used and we will refill them regularly throughout the day. Can I ask that children do not bring anything else to school please? Year 5 & 6 children who walk home alone, will be able to bring a phone but this will be handed to the classteacher and stored safely immediately as they arrive in school.

## **Classroom Layout and Organisation**

So the government guidance has been printed and we are expected to return to full classes from September which is a maximum of up to 30 children. The government are requesting that schools have forward facing desks to reduce the risk of infection. We will be operating this policy everywhere in the school apart from our Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception). The children here will still work in small groups. During the 2 inset days at the end of this term we will be organising the classrooms environments but also planning how we can effectively teach in this way. There is no expectation for children or adults to wear face masks in classes.

## **Break and Lunchtimes**

As you can see from the daily timetable, the children have different break and lunchtimes. This is very carefully planned so we can ensure all children are in their own bubble and in a designated space. The playground is split into 4 zones for the 4 different classes in that bubble. Each week they will play in one zone and then rotate to another zone the following week. These are marked by blue, red, green or yellow cones. At the end of each break time all equipment is sanitised and returned ready for the next group and all children wash their hands at the end of each break time. Lunch is exactly the same, children wash their hands before entering the main hall and will have a designated space in the hall to eat their lunch. The hall and tables are cleaned thoroughly in between each sitting.

## **Bagel Bus & After School Clubs**

In September the Bagel Bus will be back in operation, you will arrive in your allotted time and can head over to the bus to collect a bagel. This will need to be done efficiently and your child can head to their class to finish their bagel in there.

From September there will be NO after school clubs initially. This is because we cannot mix bubbles, so for example if I run a Year 2&3 football club, I can't have all the children from different classes mixing together. We will review this early in the Autumn term and as soon as the guidance changes then we will have clubs back up and running. I don't think this will happen before the October half term. We may be doing some after school tutoring of children in Year 6 but this will be in their class bubbles and we will inform parents of this once it is arranged.

## **Cleaning Arrangements**

There are very strict cleaning arrangements currently in place at school and this won't change. The children are constantly being asked to wash their hands before and after break time and always after using the toilet. Our cleaning patterns around school have intensified, so regular cleaning of hand rails, door handles, toilet areas happen throughout the day. Where possible we prop doors open so children don't have to touch them. All play equipment is sanitised at the end of each session. In the classroom your child will have their own pack of resources that is kept in a plastic wallet and only used by them. The classroom tables are sanitised daily along with all door handles and areas that children may want to touch. All classes have PPE (Personal protective equipment) and we have an isolation area in school that is specifically allocated for any child who is showing coronavirus symptoms.

These procedures will be reviewed on a weekly basis to ensure the risk of infection is kept to a minimum. All guidance regarding symptoms of Covid-19 must be strictly adhered to throughout the re-opening of school.

## **Covid-19 / Coronavirus Symptoms**

I thought it would be useful to just remind parents and carers that if your child has any of the symptoms linked to Coronavirus then please do not send them into school. The symptoms are listed below. Can I ask that you ensure we have your most up to date contact information in the school office especially if a child displays any symptoms

during the school day. We have an isolation room that is prepared for any children who do have symptoms and would expect parents and carers to collect them as quickly as possible.

**No-one should enter the school grounds or buildings if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus** and should be kept away from school. As a reminder, these include:

- A **high temperature**: this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature, but if you are able to, a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or above is a high temperature);
- A **new, continuous cough**: this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A **loss of taste or smell**: This means that you will fully lose your taste and/or smell.

### Final Thoughts

I could continue to write reams and reams of what else we need to do but I wanted to give you all the key facts and information; the do's and don'ts that you need immediately. All aspects of what we are doing will be reviewed immediately after any guidance changes so please be aware that all plans are subject to change at any point.

I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone in school, whether you have not attended school since March or you have attended almost every day as a key worker child. The school has not closed for one single day during lock down including bank holidays and half terms. The staff in school have been simply incredible, they have supported all pupils as much as possible and have enabled us to function as much as we could.

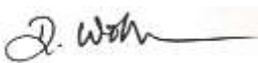
I cannot tell you how much the last few months has impacted on all of us in one way or another but what I do know is that it will make us stronger, more reflective of what we have and also what we will achieve once we are all together again. I am so proud of every single person connected to our school and the brilliant place that it was, is absolutely still the same!!

Please, please come and ask any questions in relation to the information I have given you. I really want you to be clear what is happening and confident of the steps we are taking to support the smooth re-integration of all the children, in particular those in Years 2, 3 & 4 who will have had almost 6 months out of school. We'll not forget this year everyone but please look forward with optimism and positivity. This wonderful place will be buzzing with children once again and that's the best feeling in the world.

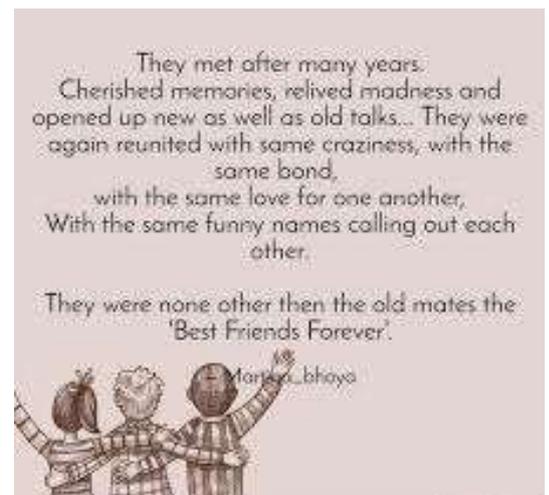
Please take care of yourselves over the Summer. You can always email me if you have any questions or concerns: [head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk);

I found this quote and it made me smile. I can't wait to see you all again soon.

Kind regards



Dave Williams (Headteacher)



## Covid-19 Organisation of the School Day

September 2020

	Nursery/ Reception	Year 1/Year 2	Year 3/Year 4	Year 5/Year 6	Pandora
*Arrival time	<b>9.15 – 9.30</b>	<b>8.30 – 8.45</b>	<b>9.00 – 9.15</b>	<b>8.45 – 9.00</b>	<b>Come in with year group time</b>
Break time	<b>As required in the EYFS outdoor area</b>	<b>10.25 – 10.45</b>  <b>2.15 – 2.30</b> <b>Afternoon Play</b>	<b>10.50 – 11.10</b>	<b>11.20 – 11.40</b>	<b>10.50 – 11.10</b> <b>(in Neptune bubble)</b>
Lunch time	<b>11.30 – 12.00</b> <b>Hall</b> <b>12.00 – 12.25</b> <b>Playground</b>	<b>12.05 – 12.30</b> <b>Hall</b> <b>12.30 – 1.00</b> <b>Playground</b>	<b>12.35 – 1.05</b> <b>Hall</b> <b>1.05 – 1.35</b> <b>Playground</b>	<b>1.10 – 1.35</b> <b>Hall</b> <b>1.40 – 2.10</b> <b>Playground</b>	<b>12.35 – 1.05</b> <b>Hall</b> <b>1.05 – 1.35</b> <b>Playground</b> <b>(in Neptune bubble)</b>
*Home time	<b>3.15</b> <b>Nurs/Rec exit &amp; through gates</b>	<b>3.00</b> <b>Classroom door exits</b>	<b>3.30</b> <b>Y3/4 exit</b>	<b>3.15</b> <b>Y5/6 exit</b>	<b>3.15</b> <b>Y3/4 exit</b>

\*Please note that a one way system has been planned for pupils and parents coming into school.

\*\*Siblings will come in at the earliest time and leave at the earliest time.