Friday 10th July

Dear Parents / Carers,

Like you, our team was delighted to hear the news last week about how education will look in September. With this in mind we wish to summarise how we are going to maintain the safety, health and well-being of your children on their return for the start of the new school year. All pupils will remain in the same group or ‘bubbles’ until further notice and will not mix with others – including at break and lunch times. These bubbles will be determined by what class they are in. The classroom desks will be set up in rows as far as it is possible, as advised by the Government.

Throughout lock down and the wider re-opening in June, we have maintained rigorous washing and sanitising of hands: on entry to school, before and after eating, when leaving the classroom, break times, after toileting and before leaving at the end of the day- this practice will continue.

In September, the government’s advice to educational settings is that social distancing within bubbles is **no longer** required. There is still advice in place that teachers and support staff minimise the time they are closer than one metre to anyone, and maintain a 2 metre distance from colleagues as much as possible. This will be challenging for all of us, but we will endeavour to adapt our ‘new normal’. We respectfully ask parents and carers to also maintain social distancing when approaching staff.

Within each bubble, books, games and classroom resources will be used and shared - but only by children within that group. There will be regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and other resources. Generic resources that are shared between bubbles, such as P.E. and I.T. equipment, will be sanitised and cleaned rigorously.

Specialist teachers for subjects such as P.E., Foreign Languages and music are able to return to teach within schools. Again, all guidance regarding maintaining distances and sanitising equipment etc will be followed.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have assemblies or large acts of collective worships until the guidance changes so there will be no Friday Celebration Worship for parents to attend. We will still celebrate the achievements of our children, both in and out of school.

Although many schools are altering the times of the school day, we aim to return to our normal drop off and of pick up times as far as possible. As we are a small school, the congestion at the gates and doors in the mornings is not usually a problem. Children can be dropped off between 8:45 -9:00, which means we naturally stagger our entry to the building. However, should there be a queue, we request that parents and children please line up to the left of the black gate leading on to the playground and use the 2m social distance makers on the fence. At this time it is important that children stay with their families or carers whilst waiting for safe entry to the building.

The end of the day is likely to be more problematic. Initially we would like to try to end our school day at our normal time of 3:30pm. However, each individual class bubble will leave from a different exit to avoid large groups of parents and children mixing from the different bubbles. See the table below for specifics.

Obviously, as we are sure you will understand, at these times of the day it is vital that we do not obstruct gate ways, and that children and siblings will need to stand with their parent or carer so that they do not mix with other bubbles. Children **must not** be allowed to play on the playground, or use any equipment at these times for the safety of all.

We may have to review our start and end times should crowding become a problem or bubbles of children begin to mix. We would greatly appreciate your support with this.

When collecting children at the end of the day, please wait in the location indicated. We will send your child to you.

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| Class | Start time | Drop off point | End of day time | Pick up location | Additional Notes |
| Class 1 | 8:45 am-9:00 am | Rear Door | 3:30 pm | Back door off the playground- please wait on the playground by the benches. | It is important we do not block the gate for access. |
| Class 2 | 8:45 am-9:00 am | Rear Door | 3.30 pm | Front door by Mrs Massey’s office. Please line up on the left side so that there is an exit route that is not blocked. | Use the small gate for entrance and exit. |
| Class 3 | 8:45 am-9:00 am | Rear Door | 3.30 pm | Rear classroom door by the outdoor sink. | Please wait for children on the playground by the gazebo. |
| Siblings in two classes | 8:45 am-9:00 am | Rear Door | 3:30 pm | Collect them from the rear door. Please wait by the toy store | It is important the gate on to the yard is not blocked. |

**If siblings are in different bubbles, we ask you to collect them from the rear door: please wait by the playground toy store for your children.**

Break time sales of toast will not resume initially, so your child may wish to bring in a snack for morning break. Please remember we are a nut-free school.

In case of a return to lock down, home learning will be made available on the school website as it is currently, to ensure your child’s education is not disrupted. Please note, the home school learning resources ends on Friday July 17th.

Unfortunately, wrap around care provided by Kingfishers **will not** begin in September due to Covid Guidance. We have been informed that this is a temporary measure, and they are looking to re-establish this service as quickly as possible. As a team we are working hard to organise some sort of care for September to support our working families. We are not in a position to offer a 100% cast-iron guarantee, and are looking to confirm more next week, but are looking to provide a before school session from 8:00 - 8:45am, and an after school session from 3.30 – 4.45pm. There will have to be a charge for this service (This will probably be a flat rate of £2:00 for a morning session and £3:00 for an afternoon session) as we have to employ a person to care for the children at these times while our staff are busy preparing for the next day and carrying out cleaning duties. To enable us to plan this provision, and to ensure it is a viable option could you please let us know ASAP (by contacting Mrs Massey) if you may need to use this service. Unlike Kingfishers, we will be unable to provide breakfast in the mornings or a snack after school - children should bring their own.

Following the government guidance, it will be mandatory for all pupils to return to school in September. Also, all schools will expect children to wear the correct school uniform and P.E. kit.

Rather than P.E. kits being kept in school, we will be trialling an initiative used successfully by other schools in the area. We would like children to come into school in their P.E. kits on the days when they have P.E. lessons. This will minimise the number of items being regularly transferred between home and school, reduce the need for staff to assist children changing in close proximity, and hopefully reduce the amount of lost or missing uniform and kit. As we will be moving quickly into cooler weather, all children will need plain black or royal blue joggers and a plain black or royal blue hoody (or a Dilhorne hoody if you have one). In addition, it is really important all children have a pair of named wellies in school as we shall be using the playing field at break times. This has been zoned in order to preserve the distance between class bubbles. If the grass is wet, they will need to wear these to avoid wet feet. We would also like to continue to use our outside learning areas.

The children will be allowed to bring in one pencil case with their own personal equipment. This will remain in school to minimise the chances of spreading germs. At this time the children **must not** bring any bags or other equipment or personal effects into school. The only things they need to bring into school are their packed lunch (if having sandwiches from home) and snacks for break time and before or after school if needed. All pupils should bring in their own named water bottle as we are not permitted to share school cups, and a suitable coat for our outdoor learning.

It is vital that

It is likely that Government guidance will change again or that we may need to review our procedures. We shall endeavour to keep you informed and up to date as these changes occur.

Finally, we are all very much looking forward to welcoming back all of our pupils to school. As always, we thank you for your continued support in these times and if you wish to contact us regarding any of the above changes for September, please do.

All of the Dilhorne Team