

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well and that you have had an enjoyable summer break.

My staff and I are excited about the start of the new academic year and we look forward to all pupils in Years 1-6 returning to school on Friday 3rd September 2021. Reception pupils will start week beginning 6th September for stay and play sessions. Nursery pupils will start on the 20th September.

As you may be aware, the Government has issued new Covid-19 guidance for schools. At Vicarage, we are taking a cautious approach to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. The updated risk assessment can be found on our school website.

The main points are as follows:-

- Pupils are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- Pupils and staff will only need to self-isolate for 10 days if they have a positive Covid-19 test result
- If anyone has symptoms of Covid-19, they will need to take the PCR test and can return to school if the test result is negative
- Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing. Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- Pupils from different year groups will be allowed to mix with each other during lessons and break times
- School timings remain the same: 8.55am-3.15pm (Years Reception-6), with a 'soft start' at 8.45am
- Lunch times will now be staggered:
 - Reception - 11.45am-12.45pm
 - Years 1 and 2 - 12.00pm-1.00pm
 - Years 3 and 4 - 12.15pm-1.15pm
 - Years 5 and 6 - 12.30pm-1.30pm
- Pupils to continue coming to school wearing their PE kit on the days they have PE

- Parents and pupils will be encouraged to use the gates by Reception classes and the Vicarage Lane sliding gates as entrance points. The White horse road and main gate on Vicarage Lane as exit points
- Face coverings are now voluntary. If parents, staff and pupils feel more comfortable wearing face masks in and around the school, then they should continue to do so
- Staff are advised to continue to take a lateral flow device test twice a week until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. This also remains voluntary
- Large group meetings and events will continue to take place on Google Meet/Zoom

I am pleased to inform you that as well as running a very successful two week Summer school during the holidays, we have carried out some refurbishment work to enhance the learning environment for our pupils. These include:

- Painting of classrooms, toilets, group rooms and offices in the Years 5 and 6 phase
- A new sensory room for SEND pupils
- A new activity/group room for SEND pupils
- IT/server upgrade across the school
- Office refurbishments

We look forward to welcoming you back to Vicarage and working with you this term. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Ms S Khan
Head Teacher

