

August 28th 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families are well and have enjoyed some summer sunshine together. We are very excited about welcoming our whole school community back next week as we start our Autumn term. It has certainly been an unusual few months and it will be wonderful to see our children together again. Thank you all for your patience these past few weeks. Guidance from the Government has been updating and changing continuously and we have worked hard to ensure that we have planned carefully for a whole school opening.

Those of you who returned in June will have noticed changes to both the physical layout of the building and the procedures we follow in school. All of these are to minimise the risk to children and staff. These systems have been put in place to minimise the risk from the virus by keeping children in protected groups known as 'bubbles'. This is the method proposed by the government for social distancing in schools. The government does not expect us to keep the younger children 2m apart from each other but are asking us to limit their contact with others whilst also adopting rigorous hand and respiratory hygiene. We will be adopting the model proposed by the government and their medical advisors of keeping children in 'bubbles' which will now increase from 15 to 30, or a whole class. Just as a reminder, here are the procedures we have put in place.

Each group will:

- have at least two members of staff who will work with them and no other group of children;
- remain apart from children in other groups/bubbles during their time at school;
- have their own desk space and equipment where appropriate although this will be adapted with our younger children
- be allocated a single classroom space as their own which children and staff from other bubbles/groups will not enter and
- have an outdoor area allocated to them so they can have playtime outside without coming into contact with children in other bubbles.

This arrangement will allow us to minimise any spread of the virus between class bubbles and allow children to socialise and learn with their peers within their bubble. In the event that a child or adult in a bubble shows symptoms of the virus, they will be sent home and asked to take the test for COVID-19. If the test is positive, all the children and staff in that child's bubble will be sent home and asked to isolate.

Return to school details:

Year 1 and Year 2 will return to school **full time** on Monday 7th September. There will **not** be a closure each Wednesday afternoon as thorough cleaning will take place outside of school hours. Children new to Early Years will have been sent an appointment for their Induction meeting which will be held the first week back. Part time school will start for all Early Years pupils on Monday 14th September for two weeks to ensure that they feel comfortable and ready to start. You will be supported with all these arrangements at the Induction meeting.

Staggered start and finish times:

In order to reduce the numbers of parents and children, we will continue using the main gate to enter, and the Cardiff Road gate to exit. The following slight alterations to start and end times will allow social distancing to take place safely:

- Year 1 8.40 – 2.55
- Early Years 8.50 – 3.05
- Year 2 9.00 – 3.15

Parents:

- All children must be brought to and picked up from school by **one adult only**. Children should be taken to their own entrance and line up using the social distancing markers. Staff will be available to direct parents and children.
- Children should wear **school uniform**. Please ensure that children wear sensible footwear so they can play and work outside. To help prevent the spread of the virus, uniform should be washed as often as possible. Masks should **not** be worn by children on the school premises.
- Parents will only be allowed in school by appointment. Please email or ring the school if you have any concerns and a member of staff will aim to contact you as soon as possible.
- Children may order a hot lunch or bring a packed lunch. Hot lunches will be eaten in the Hall, and packed lunches will be eaten in the classroom.
- Children may bring a coat, if required, but nothing else – no toys at all please.

If you have any health concerns that you would like to discuss in confidence, then please do not hesitate in making contact with the school either through your child's class teacher or by emailing the school at enquiries@stamshaw-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk

Breakfast and After School Club

Wrap Around provision will begin on **September 14th** from 8.00am in the morning until 5.30pm. The Office Team will be available from Thursday 3rd September to answer any questions regarding bookings.

My thanks as ever to you all for your continued support. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again and will work together as we begin this next stage in what has become our 'new normal'. If you have any specific questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate in making contact and we will do our very best to support you and your child.

With best wishes,

Mrs J Cooper
Headteacher