

Kingsway Infant School

North Approach, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 0ES.

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Tuesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new school year! I had a lovely break and we are now all ready to welcome everyone to school tomorrow. As you can imagine there was lots of new guidance issued during the holidays and even in the last day or so. I have included the most up to date at the end of this letter to explain arrangements for the start of the term.

Have a good read through my long list and please give us a call/email if you need more details. Make sure you are signed up for parentmail and Marvellous Me as that is how we get out most of our messages.

Looking forward to seeing you all. I will be on the Ross Crescent gate in the morning come rain or shine.

Best Wishes

Caroline T-Walmsley
Headteacher

Gates

I met with Ms Beale yesterday and we have agreed to trial returning to our traditional entrances via Briar Road and Ross Crescent. Staff will unlock the gates five minutes before the classroom doors so 8.40 for an 8.45 -8.55am soft start at the Infants. Please do not arrive earlier than that. Ross Crescent is quite narrow but our councilor Tim Williams organized to get the old barrier removed during lockdown so that should make things a bit easier. **The temporary gates in North Approach will be closed. (Covid Gate A and B)**

Covid in the community

Please do not stop and chat on school premises we still have to show we are doing our best to reduce opportunities to spread the virus. Also, please be considerate of our neighbours especially in Ross Crescent and Briar Road. Please put yourself in their shoes with up to 420 families coming past their doors/gardens twice a day. Please keep off their drives and keep your child away from their cars/property etc

Autumn Term dates:

Thursday 2nd September – School open for pupils

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October – Half Term Break

Tuesday 21st December – last day of term – school closes at 1:30pm for pupils.



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Every Child Matters

School day and times

The school day for all year groups – 8:55am – 3:05pm

Drop off and pick up from the school playground

Entrance to the school site from Briar Rd or Ross Crescent

Reception

For the first two days these children only stay in school until midday. Please collect from our side gate via the staff car park in North Approach at 12. Please consider social distancing and expect a little wait as we only let the children out one at a time when we can see the parent/carer. Staff will not know most of you so please be patient. From Monday 6th September they will stay all day, have lunch and be going home at 3.05pm

Lateness

If your child is later than 8:55am and the gate is locked, please bring her/him to the school office. Please try not to be late as this disrupts the office, disrupts the learning and is not nice for your child to have to walk into the classroom from the wrong door.

In the classroom

- There is no longer an expectation to stick to class bubbles however, we will stick to class and year group assemblies each week for now.
- To allow air to circulate, windows and doors will be kept open as often as possible
- Reading books will be issued usually on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Moving around

- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be slightly staggered, however, classes and year groups will be able to mix

Cleaning and hygiene

- Children and staff will continue to wash/sanitise their hands throughout the school day – e.g. on arrival, before break time, after break time, before lunch, after lunch and before home time.
- The children are reminded to 'Catch it, kill it, bin it' and place tissues in the bin
- Children will be encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth
- Frequent cleaning by staff will take place with an extra focus on touch points. This, as well as additional cleaning and emptying of bins throughout the day will happen.

The classes have all had a deep clean before returning

Curriculum

- The school will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects
- Teachers have identified the knowledge and key skills needed in order for pupils to progress in each subject and from year group to year group
- A recovery curriculum has been carefully planned

Clubs

- The after school club is run by school staff with a different theme each day. Please speak to the office for more details.
- Breakfast Club** is run by school staff from 7.45am. Breakfast is included

Holidays

- As usual, you should plan your holidays within school holidays. Avoid seeking permission to take your children out of school during term time.
- Keep in mind that you and your children may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas.

The following information reflects guidance that was issued over the summer holidays regarding children's return to school.

Government Guidance (COVID-19) updated August 2021

From 19 July the government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September.

The key messages from this guidance are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory for schools
- the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- there is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period
- your school will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal
- your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')
- the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are required to quarantine.

You should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

If you insist on your child attending school when they have symptoms, the school can take the decision to refuse your child if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Their decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

Further and more detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-yearsproviders-schools-and-colleges#>