Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Wow! What a fabulous first couple of days we have had back at school! The children looked extremely smart and really enjoyed their first two days. The smell of bramble crumble and cupcakes wafted through upper school as the children discussed recipes for happy classrooms. The MUGA was well and truly christened and lots of team-building games, activities and crafts were shared. It was lovely to hear stories about staycations, pets and new babies! As we move into the new year, our aim is to continue to keep your children and our staff as safe as possible whilst regaining a level of normality back and offering an exciting broad and balanced curriculum. We will continue to send out our weekly Lingdale letterbox. This will be sent every Friday via email and posted on the school website and Facebook page. If you require a paper copy, please let us know.

Amendments to our COVID-19 arrangements,

The Government have sent out new guidance and our Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect this guidance can be found on the school website.

Under the new guidance individuals do not have to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- **they are fully vaccinated**
- **they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months**
- **they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial**
- **they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.**

Close contacts will be contacted by the Track and Trace service and they will advise that a PCR test is taken. If this happens you are advised to take the test. Children identified as a close contact should continue to attend school unless they become symptomatic or have a positive PCR test.

You must not send your child to school if they display any of the symptoms listed below:

- **A high temperature**
- **A new, continuous cough**
- **A loss or change to their sense of smell or taste.**

If your child does come to school and develops any of these symptoms then we are told we should send them home immediately and you should follow Public Health England Advice. Once a symptomatic child has a negative PCR test they may return to school.

Paid Breakfast Club

Children should be booked in, in advance using Parent Pay. The cost will remain at £1 per day and starts at 7.30am.

FREE Breakfast Club

This will start on Monday 6th September at 8.15am. Last entry will be 8.30am prompt and the gates will then be locked. The gates will reopen at 8.45am and the children will need to be left at the gate and line up at the pencils. The children in Reception may use the paid/free breakfast club or be taken to their cloakroom door at 8.45am.

Catering arrangements

Hot lunches will be available as they were in the summer term. All school lunches should be paid in advance using Parent Pay. Those children who prefer to bring their own packed lunch from home may do so. Packed lunches should be taken into class with the child where it will be stored until lunchtime. Please refer to the school's packed lunch policy on the website - a copy was sent home with your child yesterday.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free hot school dinner. If you have a child in one of these year groups and you wish to replace their free school meal with a packed lunch provided by yourself, the office should be made aware as soon as possible, to ensure our food order is correct.

Be safe, be ready, be respectful

Anyone who feels they may be eligible for benefits related Free School Meals should ask Mrs Bates about how to apply. Not only will your child benefit from a hot lunch, but school will be given additional funding to support teaching and learning for your child.

Any families owing £10 or more on Parent Pay for school lunches will need to supply a packed lunch for their child/children, until the debt is cleared.

Attendance

Attendance at school is mandatory. Anyone suffering from anxiety with regard to their child returning to school should contact the school office as soon as possible to arrange an appointment to discuss what arrangements can be put in place to reduce and remove this anxiety. Normal protocol will be resumed for all children. Daily registration will take place for each session that the child is required to attend school and will be in accordance with start times. It is important that children arrive at school on time to ensure the full curriculum can be delivered.

Organisation of Children in school

For the vast majority of the day children will remain in their class groups with the same staff. Children will be allowed to mix at playtimes and lunchtimes and will be encouraged to have active playtimes with their peers.

Risk Reduction for the children:

- Whole school gatherings will initially be limited to once a week and may be virtual.
- Hands will be washed or sanitised on entering the building, after going to the toilet, after break-time and before and after lunch.
- Children will be taught how to wash their hands effectively.
- Children will be taught the 'catch it, bin it, kill it rule.'
- Children will be told on which days they have PE and will come to school wearing their PE kit.
- Windows will be open and internal doors will also be left open at playtimes to ensure that rooms are well ventilated.
- The school will be thoroughly cleaned each night.
- Children will sit in classes within the hall to eat lunch.

Risk Reduction for Staff

- All staff have access to LFD testing kits to test themselves twice a week.
- Most staff are double vaccinated.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment may be worn when necessary.
- Parents / carers are to continue contacting the office via email or phone rather than visiting the office as far as is practical.
- Parents will be encouraged to leave the premises swiftly to reduce the number of contacts they have.
- Facilities provided for regular handwashing throughout the day.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

There is no expectation that this should be worn in usual, day to day circumstances. The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, including:

- where an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at school, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained
- where a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used.

Behaviour

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We are currently reviewing our Behaviour Policy. Once the process is completed, the new policy will be shared on the school website.

Uniform and items from Home

- Book bags can be used to bring reading books and reading records etc back and forth to school. Homework can also be stored in these. Book bags MUST be in school DAILY.
- It is expected that all pupils will wear full school uniform including black school shoes/trainers.
- Children should wear the full PE kit to school on their PE day – black/blue joggers, black/blue jogging top, trainers and their pale blue school PE t-shirt.
- Children should not wear any jewellery other than a watch and stud earrings.
- Earrings must not be worn on PE days.
- **No personal items** should be brought to school other than a coat and sun hat.
- Sun cream should be applied before arriving at school so there should not then be a need to send sun cream to school.
- All hand sanitiser and soap will be provided by school.

Learning Provision

We will start the year with a focus on **Reading**. We will continue to use the outdoor space as often as is possible in Nursery and Reception and where appropriate in all classes. Please ensure your child has their reading book and diary EVERY DAY.

All learning will reflect the learning needed to ensure the curriculum is fully covered and children are well supported to reduce any gaps in attainment that have appeared during lockdown and summer holidays. There will be a focus throughout school on personal, social, health and emotional well-being to allow the children to express their experience and emotions and to prepare them for life in the wider world.

Contact with School

- Please continue to use virtual communication. Contact with school should be via telephone and email.
- **Do not visit the office, unless you have prearranged**.
- Ensure that we have your most up to date contact details and that you can be contacted throughout the day in case of an emergency. All children MUST have at least 2 contacts on their pupil sheets. If you have made any changes then please email the office asap to update.
- Expect a phone call from school each day your child is absent if we have not received a message from yourselves about their absence.

Safeguarding/SEND

Parents should contact Mrs Thornton, Mrs Norris or Miss Schumm regarding any safeguarding issues.
Parents should arrange an appointment with Mrs Jones regarding any SEND issues.

Pupil illness

If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. We therefore need you to be contactable at all times. Your child will be kept in isolation with a member of staff while we wait for your arrival. Children will be set work to complete remotely if they are required to self-isolate and are well enough to do so.

If you have any un-answered questions please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office on office@lingdale.org or 01287 651723. We are always happy to help and work together to be the best that we can be. Please also note that staff will only respond to emails between 8am and 5pm weekdays.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Thornton
Headteacher

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