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Wednesday, 01 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **R.E. Return to School on 7th September**

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful Summer break, and that your children are looking forward to attending school in September.

This letter will explain some of the changes made for the Autumn term. As per the letter shared from Mr Dickinson, CEO, there is an updated Risk Assessment and newly compiled Outbreak Management Plan, available for you to review on our website. These documents provide an outline of the overall strategy and steps taken by all Waterton academies.

The information below reviews and underlines the information sent to you before the summer break.

### **Start time and End time**

Start and finish times will return to normal for all children. This is:

- Nursery: 8.45-11.45 and 12.15-3.15
- Remainder of school: 8.50-3pm

We are going to continue trying to minimise the number of people on site and are still going to ask parents not to come into the building unless this is pre booked or essential.

**Nursery and reception (EYFS):** The new EYFS building will be complete before September and all of the nursery and reception children will be in here. This building will have two entrances – one for reception and one for nursery and there will be limited space for parents to wait near each entrance. We would like parents to continue to drop their child off with the class teacher rather than waiting with them and coming into school as previously happened. Parents will be able to come onto the site where areas will be designated for each class but these are only small and so we would like you to arrive promptly and leave as soon as your child has gone into the building. As we settle into the new building and get used to the space we may tweak these arrangements.

**Year 1 to year 6:** To avoid unnecessary congestion at the nursery gate we would like all other children to enter school through the playground gate. Parents may accompany their children into the playground if they would like to, thus avoiding large groups waiting on the path, but will not be going round to classroom doors in the way we used to operate. The children will line up in their classes on the playground at 8.45 and teachers will come and collect them. There will be supervision on the playground from 8.40 so children may be left without parents if needed. If you need to speak to your child's teacher please make an appointment as you have done during Covid restrictions rather than trying to catch them in the morning. Please note: the school day starts at 8.50am and learning begins immediately. Teachers will take their classes into school at 8.45 and so children should be on site by this time. The gates will be locked at 8.50. If you arrive after this time please go to the nursery gate and press the buzzer to alert Mrs Smith. Your child will be collected and will enter school through main reception where they will be recorded as late. We begin learning at 8.50 and children can miss a large

amount of content across a year being a few minutes late each day. Please support us to ensure that this doesn't happen.

At the end of the day all children will be brought out onto the playground or to the EYFS waiting areas by school staff. Please be patient initially as staff get to know new parents. Staff will dismiss each child to their parent when they see them. Please then leave the site promptly avoiding congestion at the gate.

### **Face masks**

In line with Government guidance, we are no longer recommending that masks be worn when dropping off or collecting children.

### **Social Distancing and Bubbles**

There is no longer a requirement for social distancing on school grounds. We understand that some families may choose to keep their distance, and therefore ask that parents be respectful of each other's space, especially at busy times.

From September, except in the case of an identified outbreak, there will no longer be a system of 'bubbles' in school. Children will still spend the majority of their time with their class, but they can now mix with other classes at break times and in other relevant circumstances.

### **Self-Isolation**

The latest guidance around self-isolation for close contacts of a positive case is as follows:

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

As this includes all children and fully vaccinated adults, there will be no requirement for a class to isolate in the event of a positive case. In the event of an outbreak being identified the Outbreak Management Plan will be followed, and parents will be informed of next steps.

### **Quarantine and Travel**

Any families who have returned from a foreign holiday in the 10 days prior to returning to school must check the Government guidance around travel and quarantine, found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>

### **Attendance**

The Waterton Academy Trust [Attendance Policy](#) remains in effect. It is expected that children attend school as normal and that absences for any reason are reported to the office.

### **Wraparound care**

The breakfast club and after school will be available to children from the first day of term. Please book through Mrs Smith as usual.

### **Symptoms and testing**

All staff will continue to be encouraged to participate in twice weekly lateral flow testing for asymptomatic individuals. Tests are also available to parents, and can be ordered here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

The main Covid-19 symptoms are a high temperature, a new continuous cough and a loss or change to sense of taste or smell. If a member of the household has symptoms, but your child does not they should still attend as long as they can safely be brought to school without breaching self-isolation rules.

If your child has any of the above symptoms they must not come to school and must stay at home and self-isolate. Any adults in the household who are not fully vaccinated (but have no medical reason not to be vaccinated) must also self-isolate. The symptomatic person and unvaccinated adults may only leave the house to take a PCR test. Tests can be arranged here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If this test is negative, the symptomatic child may return to school. See below for what to do if the test is positive.

### **Reporting a positive case**

In the unfortunate event of your child having a positive Covid-19 test, they must stay at home and isolate for 10 days after the first onset of symptoms (or test date if asymptomatic). Parents should report this positive test result to the school office as soon as possible. At the end of the 10 day period, if your child is feeling well and no longer has a high temperature they may return to school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support, and to wish the whole school community well for the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Thompson  
Executive Head Teacher