

Galleywood Infant School

Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



We are busily preparing for our school to open fully for all children on Monday 8th March. You have been doing a brilliant job with home learning, but we know how much the children need to see their friends and their teachers, to experience the buzz of learning alongside their peers and to know that they are all part of their class teams and our school team. Teachers have planned lots of activities over the next few weeks to support children to feel confident, rebuild relationships and work at different times with everyone in their class bubble.



Please let us know if your child is anxious or struggling with any aspect of the return to school so that we can support gently and carefully in discussion with you.

Drop off & pick up times will remain unchanged from the autumn term, with a window of 10 mins to allow a staggered entry and exit from the school grounds.

Rabbits, Squirrels, Owls and Hedgehogs **arrive between 8:50-9am and leave between 3-3:10pm.**

Foxes and Badgers **arrive between 8:50-9am and leave between 2:50-3pm.**

I am aware that two year groups at St Michael's do not come out of school until 3:20; we will review our pick-up times and the use of our outdoor play equipment at the Easter break so that we can hopefully make this easier for parents to manage. Thank you for supporting the staggered times once again.



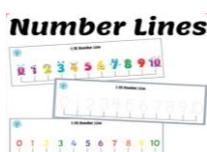
We will continue to keep children and staff in class bubbles of 30 indoors and at lunchtimes. Out of doors at playtime and lunchtime they will be able to mix in a larger year group bubble. We will manage this by ensuring children wash hands or use hand sanitiser both before and after playtimes and remind them about giving one another space.

This will not be a change for the Foundation Stage classes, where this has always been the situation. For children in Year 1 and Year 2 we think it is important for them to build friendships beyond their immediate class group, mixing again with some children they played with in the Early Years garden. Evidence shows that the risk of spreading infection between children is very low, and outdoors this is even lower.



Help!

We would like you to have a really good search at home and return the maths equipment and the reading books from your packs, please. With everyone back in school we will need all our resources- see what you can find!



Safety on the school site

All adults in school wear face coverings when moving around the school, using the staffroom or visiting the office, for example, and when greeting children and parents at the door.

We are asking all parents and carers to wear a face covering whilst on the school site unless they have a health exemption.

Children in primary schools **do not** need to wear a face covering.



To reduce congestion and enable social distancing on the playground adults collecting children from Rabbits class will need to wait in the Quiet Area from Monday 8th March please.

Please can I remind you to collect any bikes or scooters before you collect your child so that the one-way system is able to operation.



The YMCA breakfast and after school club opens again on Monday and Premier Sport gymnastics club will be running on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Tennis club will resume on Friday 12th March.

Covid-19 testing

Our staff team are taking bi-weekly lateral flow tests. We have been notified that families with a child at primary school can also use these tests twice each week. See letter attached with links to find nearby test collection centres.

It is important for children to wear their full school uniform and once again feel part of the whole school community. I realise that children may have outgrown school shoes in the period since 18th December and appreciate that non-essential shops remain closed until 12th April. If this is the case, then please wear trainers or similar comfortable, robust shoes for the next three weeks. We have a small stock of donated uniform/ unclaimed and un-named lost property. Please let us know if your child has outgrown specific items and you have not yet been able to replace these.

PE days for the next 3 weeks will be as follows:

Rabbits and Squirrels: Tuesday and Thursday

Owls and Hedgehogs: Wednesday and Friday

Foxes and Badgers: Full uniform all week for the first week back, and then from Monday 15th March active wear on a Monday for Forest Schools and a Thursday for PE.

As before Christmas we would like all children to bring book bags on a Friday to exchange reading books. This will be reviewed at Easter when new guidance is expected, to see whether measures can be eased ahead of the summer term.

As usual please phone or email if you have questions or concerns:

sarahmanning@galleywood.essex.sch.uk

We wish you a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

