

KINGSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs J Warren



29th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are having an enjoyable holiday and are looking forward to our return to school on Thursday 3rd September for Years 1-6 and Monday the 7th Sept for our new EYFS, Class 1 children in your morning and afternoon groups. We can't wait to see you all again!

As stated in my 'end of term', July letter, the Governors, staff and I have been working extremely hard to prepare the school so it is ready for our full return. A full risk assessment has been completed which reflects the current government guidance on the full reopening of schools and is tailored to meet the needs and requirements of our school and children. As I'm sure you'll all appreciate, government guidance and updates with regards to COVID-19 have been and continue to be a daily occurrence – the most recent being published last night at the start of the bank holiday weekend! As a result it is important that although our school's risk assessment has been approved by the school governors that it continues to be a working document and will be reviewed and monitored in school making necessary adjustments as appropriate and responding to COVID-19 in our locality. I will keep you informed with any future updates. You can view this risk assessment on our school website as from today and I would recommend that you take the time to have a look and prepare yourself and child for our opening next week. <http://www.kingsmoorprimaryschool.co.uk/september-2020-reopening.html>

If you have any questions or queries prior to opening you are very welcome to ring the school office Tuesday or Wednesday where I will be able to reassure you on any questions you may have.

The teachers, supported by their teaching assistants, have all been working incredibly hard over the holidays to prepare their year group classrooms, individual resources and plan for their intended Year group - making necessary adjustments to facilitate the time out of school experienced last term. As you may be aware, the government have instigated what's referred to as 'catch up' funding for this academic year. We have used this funding to employ additional staff members – which I can now confirm has enabled us to facilitate single year group teaching for the whole of this academic year during morning and afternoon sessions - we are also employing Mrs Julie Ingram and teaching assistants to enable class teachers to facilitate intervention groups for children requiring specific catch up. **Phonics and reading** will be a key focus for all children upon our return to school and timetables have been adapted to reflect this during the Autumn term with greater time being spent in these key areas. Additional phonics resources and books are being purchased and **parental support in hearing your child read at least 3 times a week** will ensure that rapid progress and catch up is made. Last year every year group made huge progress with reading regularly in our whole school reading initiative and I know we can keep this momentum going to great effect this year too!

The **Health and Well-being** of all the children, families and our staff continues to be a high priority for the school and even more so in current times. Our risk assessment reflects this so please do read the relevant sections to learn about the provision we have in place. Accompanying my end of term letter was a **return to school form – information for your teachers**, which will be of great benefit to your child's new teacher. This gives you the opportunity to tell the teacher about your child, how they presented during lockdown and how they are feeling about their return to school. I attach this form again and would ask that **every parent**

completes it and returns it to school – either via your child or emailed through to the Homelearning email. (I believe I wrote this incorrectly on the last letter – apologies – so please do resend.)

homelearning.sch210@educ.somerset.gov.uk Thank you for your help with this – it is your opportunity to share any concerns and have direct contact with the teacher.

A big thank you to those parents who have already completed the online **Governor's Homelearning questionnaire** which relates to how the school responded to COVID-19 and the remote/Homelearning that was provided. The feedback we gain from this questionnaire is invaluable and will help inform our next steps if we have to deliver remote education in the future. If at all possible **I would really appreciate a few moments of your time in completing this – it will be of great benefit to the school moving forward.**

<http://www.kingsmoorprimaryschool.co.uk/parent-questionnaire.html> Thank you.

To accompany this letter I have also attached an **information sheet** which provides you with key points from the risk assessment that are particularly important for you to be aware of for the start of school. The letter, written at the end of term is still relevant and can be found on our website.

We are aware of an increase in roadworks which could affect your journey into school. Please bear this in mind when travelling to school and finding an appropriate parking place. We would appreciate that children due to start school at 9:00am remain in their vehicles with their parent until this time to enable the younger classes and parents to get into school safely first and their parents to leave site promptly. Members of staff will be out on the drive every morning to help direct parents and children. All gates will be open.

A reminder to all parents to arrive and depart swiftly- **to social distance and to avoid mixing with different year groups.** Older siblings of younger children can arrive at the same time as their younger sibling and will also be released from class at 3:15 to go home.

To confirm, all children who travel on SCC transport will be collected from the bus upon arrival and taken to their year group class. The bus will aim to leave school just after 3:30. **Children in EYFS, Years 1, 2 and 3 will remain in class with their teachers from 3:15 until 3:30** when Mrs Lane will collect them and take them to the bus.

Similarly, children attending extended school provision will remain in class until they are collected. A slight alteration from my previous communication – **If your child attends breakfast club you should walk your child to the hall entrance (between Class 4 and 5) to sign them in at drop off time.** Upon collection, you should ring the buzzer and your child will be brought out to you. Please ring the office to book into this provision. Thank you. It will resume on the 3rd September.

COVID-19/illness

The risk assessment clearly states procedures we will undertake in school to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. As we enter our Autumn and Winter terms, it is inevitable that some children will develop illnesses. Therefore, it is of extreme importance to monitor your child's health and that of your family and to keep your child at home if they generally feel unwell. As per our usual school procedures, please inform the school as early as possible if your child is unwell and will be absent from school for any reason.

If your child presents with symptoms of **Coronavirus** either in school or at home: **a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)** they will be asked to stay at home from the onset of the symptoms **for 10 days and seek a test as a soon as possible.**

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to testing to arrange.

Please inform school straight away (with a screen shot/email of test result) so we can act accordingly.

If your child comes into **contact with a confirmed case of Coronavirus then they should isolate for 14 days** and if a confirmed case is found within the school, we will liaise with Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace immediately. We will then communicate with parents of affected pupils straight away to advise you of the next steps.

(See infection control measures of Risk assessment for greater detail.)

Quarantine

It is extremely important to all pupils and members of the school community that if families have travelled abroad to countries which require you to quarantine, that this is **undertaken for the full 14 days upon your return to the UK**. In order to return to school on the 3rd September – you will need to have been home in the UK on the 20th August 2020. Please do not put others at risk by returning to school early if your family has been away towards the end of the summer holiday, I would much prefer that quarantine has been fully adhered to and that all families and staff remain safe at the start of this academic year. Please ring school to let me know if this does affect your child's start to school. Thank you.

Face coverings (As per Risk assessment)

Kingsmoor are following the current Government guidance with regards to masks for children under the age of 12 which states: Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Scientific evidence says taking on and off, and frequent changing of "PPE" (including gloves and face masks) can actually cause more harm if not done properly – gloves should be pulled off in a particular way, as should face masks, and we are concerned children will not have this level of skill. Face masks must cover the face and nose at all times to afford protection, they must not rest on your chin (or touch any other part of your body that "maybe contaminated" before they cover the mouth and nose. Children will not be able to avoid pulling it down or touching the front where germs maybe. Therefore we would not wish children to attend school with gloves or masks. Please do contact school if you have any concerns regarding this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, the accompanying information sheet and the school's full detailed risk assessment. As I'm sure you can appreciate, we have done our very best to prepare as fully as we possibly can to reopen our school on Thursday in the safest possible manner. I am always open to feedback from parents and would welcome your responses to the Governor's questionnaire and also the information sheets for your class teacher and any additional comments you feel may support our school's risk assessment – please do not hesitate to contact me in school next week. Remember- communication and positive relationships are key.

Kingsmoor is well equipped with trained staff to support families and children who may feel anxious or unsure so please do ring the school to speak to the class teacher if you have any worries. Although it is still a very unusual time, as the children who came back into school last term demonstrated, they are resilient, determined and passionate individuals who thrive on being in school! We look forward to having everyone back and Class 1 beginning!

Best wishes



Mrs Warren

