



# VPS Update (August 2021)

## BACK TO SCHOOL

We hope you have all enjoyed a happy and healthy summer holiday and are ready to get back into the swing of the new school term next week. Staff have been back in school this week getting everything ready and we have some updates to give you about operations for the year ahead. Mostly, the Covid mitigations remain the same but there are some relaxations to make life easier and to start to get back to something a bit more like we are used to.

### Updates:

- Anyone displaying any Covid symptoms must not attend school. They must book a test through the PHA website.
- Social distancing still required and so we continue to **limit the numbers of adults permitted on the school grounds**. Please only come onto the school grounds if you have a prior appointment, are dropping off a P1 pupil or collecting P1-P3 pupils.
- Please continue to **drop children off at the black gates** (with the exception of P1 pupils). Information about staggered drop off and pick up times will follow in a separate letter.
- The number of adults on site is still to remain limited and any adults who are on site should still **wear face coverings** when on school grounds.
- The **one way system** continues to operate in school and we will still be using the external routes to move around school so please ensure coats are sent in when the weather dictates it.
- Classes will still be taught in bubbles however **class bubbles** can now move to different learning areas e.g. computer suite, PE hall etc provided hands are well sanitised.
- Indoor PE is now permitted however, children should not change for PE in school. For this reason, we allow children to come to school in their **PE kit** on PE days and to make life easier for all concerned, we have ensured that all classes have PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On all other days children should wear normal **school uniform**.
- The risk of transmission on materials is considered relatively low and therefore we will now allow pupils to **bring school bags and lunch bags** to school. Please be advised though that school bags should be able to hang on the back of a chair and should therefore only be used to hold necessary items. School bags which are too heavy can topple chairs in class! P1 and P2 children should only use the red school book bags and not school bags.
- Lessons no longer have to take place outside as long as we have adequate ventilation in the classrooms. However, we understand that the pupils enjoyed **outdoor learning** and will continue to incorporate some outdoor lessons into our weekly plans.
- Large **assemblies will not take place** in the hall. We will continue to come together for assemblies in school via zoom or in classes but will not have visitors or parents attend. Certificates and awards will be shared with parents digitally once they are up and running. Each class will hold one class assembly per year for parents. This may be in school or online.
- **Breakfast Club and After School club** will resume from 6th September. All places must be booked in advance via the Gateway app.
- The key message to keep us all in school is to ensure **good hand hygiene** at all times. This will allow us to return to using resources that previously were not allowed. We would appreciate if you would remind your child of the importance of hand washing and also to avoid touching their eyes, mouth and nose if possible.
- Your class teachers will be in touch next week with **more detailed information** about what your child will need to bring to school with them. They will also invite you to come to school and meet them and will send out an overview of expectations for the year. Please keep an eye out for class newsletters as soon as we return to school.

We hope you enjoy the remaining few days of the summer holidays and make the most of this fabulous weather. We can't wait to see your children next week. Don't forget, school starts on Tuesday 31st for a half day settling in period and then full time from Wednesday 1st September (with the exception of P1 who have already had their start times).

See you then!

Mrs Weir and the VPS team