

Monday 23 August 2021

To our Wrenbury School Family,

I hope you are having a lovely summer break and adjusting back into a sense of normality as we have eased out of lock-down in recent weeks; being able to enjoy quality time with family and/or friends, at home or away, and do lots of the things we've all missed. As in my last communication, I said that I would contact you all with an update in readiness for school returning after the summer break on Thursday 2 September.

All headteachers have received advice from the Local Authority regarding expectations on the return to school. The key word in the communication is 'caution' and we are being advised to keep some control measures in place and slowly ease out of them, as/when appropriate. At Wrenbury, the following control measures will be:

- the one-way system for entry to school
- the regular washing /sanitising of hands across the school day
- the additional cleaning programme
- gradually building up the numbers of children gathering together

and in the short term

- consider the wearing of face masks in areas of close proximity / within more confined spaces
- extending the time all children can arrive in class prior to registration and leave at the end of the school day (in normal times: 8.45-8.55am and 3.30pm)

To this end (and because some of these have been positive changes):

Coming to school and pick up

- Access to school site limited to MUGA gate by the doctor's surgery/tennis courts ONLY (except for bus children /pre-arranged with office)
- One way systems around site for drop off and pick up - follow the white dot floor markings
- **DROP-OFF:** MUGA gate open between **8.40 and 8.55am for all. All children in school by 8.55am for register. Gate will be locked at 8.55am.** *When independent enough, children to walk around site to class entrance point, fully supervised by staff. This was a real positive from the changes we made.*
- **PICK UP:** MUGA gate open from 3.15pm for pickup between **3.20-3.30pm for all children.** Children will wait outside, with teacher, to be handed over. Again, follow the one-way system to exit the site.

Classes

Entry to school via MUGA gate / Dr surgery entrance	Drop off 8.40-8.55 am	Pick up 3.20-3.30 pm	Follow one way route to entrance to class room	Follow one way route to exit school site
Little Wrens Miss Bex / Mrs Phoenix	8.40-8.55 with older sibling 8.50-8.55 if only child <i>If afternoon session only, 12 pm with packed lunch or pre-order school lunch</i>	If morning session only: 12pm <i>If afternoon session only: 3.30pm</i>	EYFS gate	From EYFS gate, exit gate on back playground between school house and main school building
Base 1 Miss McKinnon / Mrs Winward	8.40-8.55am	3.20-3.30pm	EYFS gate	

Base 2 Mrs Turner / Mrs Wimpenny	8.40-8.55am	3.20-3.30pm	Base 2 Back yard –via courtyard gate	From courtyard gate, exit between school house and main school building
Base 3 Mr Lindop / Mrs Griffin			Base 3 Classroom door	Walk alongside main building towards office area and through pedestrian gate next to new Base 5 room
Base 4 Miss Phillips / Mrs Clarke			Base 4: Drop off: Doorway beyond gate next to school house (between school house and main school building) Pick-up: Back yard – via courtyard gate	From backyard, exit between school house and main school building
Base 5 Mrs Charlesworth			Base 5 Classroom door (same entry as when Y4/5)	Pedestrian gate front of school next to Base 5 classroom

- Once your child has been handed to teacher or back to you, please do not loiter/stop to chat with friends or staff, either inside school grounds or at front of school. The aim is to keep everyone moving and avoid congestion.

What to wear / bring to school

Wear

- School uniform for all but PE day
- On PE day** – school’s PE kit (please see website for PE kit colours)
- Long hair tied back; no jewellery/accessories
- Sun-cream applied BEFORE school if needed; sun hat, if very hot; coat, if cold or wet

Bring

- A **cleaned, named water bottle** – this will be sent home daily, to be cleaned, refilled with **water only** and returned.
- A packed lunch, if providing own
- If a school bag is brought in, then it should be small.** Cloakrooms are small and storage space is limited. *Note: children will only be bringing their reading book and reading record / diary daily to school. Homework is only brought in on one day determined by class teacher.*

‘Bubbles’

As you know, the children have been in class ‘bubbles’. Again being cautious as advised for the short term, we are grouping the classes as follows:

- Little Wrens and Base 1 (YR)
- Base 2 and Base 3 (Y1-3) – share Y2
- Base 4 and Base 5 (Y4-6) – share Y5

This will allow for greater mixing as the DfE has requested and a greater flexibility to the use of spaces in and around school. *To reassure parents, in larger 2 form/3 form entry schools, whole year groups were bubbled (60-90 children) – this is equivalent to our KS1 and KS2.*

We have always and will continue to stagger playtimes and lunchtimes. *In reality, two classes will have the whole of the front field and playground or backfield and playground – this is a huge area for them to play in and close contacts are limited in these situations.* We will not be returning to dining in the hall for all classes in the short term – just Base 1 and Base 2 initially (different time slots).

Assemblies will continue outdoors, via Zoom, or in smaller groups initially.

Toilets and cloakrooms

- We have had two classes share a toilet block for the past 18 months. These are in the same Base groups as I have outlined above – so there is little change. The toilets have become unisex toilets. This will continue. Boys and girls will use the toilet at slightly different times eg boys first; then girls; vice versa.

Curriculum/learning

I am very proud that the staff and children were able to fully embrace our 'Learning Journey' curriculum last term: the teaching was exciting (and challenging); the children's learning was wonderful. At the same time we supported children to keep up or close the gaps on their missed learning. We will continue doing so this next term through our whole school theme - 'Farming'.

We will continue using the Colour Monster daily to support the children's expression of how they are feeling and to give them a voice, knowing they are being listened to and supported.

Again, we ask that you...

- Keep your voiced / expressed feelings positive, even if you are a little anxious about your child returning to school. Please try to avoid 'worried' talk eg 'Am I doing the right thing?' being expressed in front of your child or overheard by your child.
- Try to avoid being over clingy/protective in your behaviours with your child; whilst understandable, this will only increase separation difficulties.

Expectations of parents

Please

- Use the entrances, exits and one way systems around the school site that we have put in place
- Drop and pick up your child **ONLY within or at** the allocated times – do not be early or late.
- No loitering/chatting after drop off or pick up on site or just outside school grounds to reduce congestion
- Respect personal space, others' feelings/ potential anxieties
- Ensure your child has a named **water** bottles
- Ensure your child wears school uniform daily except PE day
- Ensure your child comes to school in PE Kit and correct PE footwear on their PE day
- Ensure your child brings a coat IF weather forecast is rain or cold weather
- Ensure your child only brings a **SMALL** school bag and **NO** personal belongings/toys from home.
- Only visit the office by prior appointment – telephone for an appointment/information **260656**; email office admin@wrenbury.cheshire.sch.uk for any enquiries
- Ensure your child's attendance is the best that it can be. It will be monitored and children are expected to attend all sessions that school is open. We have to follow government guidelines regarding non-attendance.

Illness

- Your child **should not be sent to school** if they have any Covid symptoms: continuous cough, high temperature, loss of smell or taste. Your child is now able to be tested and should be.
- Equally, a child with a heavy cold, sneezing a lot, sickness and/or diarrhoea (48hrs) should stay off school. To safeguard themselves and their families, our staff will not be able to afford unnecessary close contact with your child and any potential spread of infection to staff or other children has to be limited in school. *Coronavirus hasn't gone away. There are still cases known to us in the community. Please work together and with us to reduce potential transmission. 'We all matter'.* Twice weekly LFD testing will continue for staff and, where possible and in support, parents are asked to do these, too.
- There have been changes to isolation expectations should there be a positive case in school. A further letter will be sent to explain these before we return.

- If your child suffers from asthma – an asthma plan **MUST** be completed and a copy in school. This will be emailed to parents for completion and returned with inhalers on first day back. If your child has recently started to use an inhaler, please email office so that you, too, will receive the form. An inhaler **must** be in school at all times if you identify your child as asthmatic, even mildly.

Please do keep the school office up to date with changes to phone numbers, contacts, child allergies etc.

The Nest: Thank you for booking your places for the autumn term as requested. It is increasingly popular and some sessions are at capacity. We **will not be taking adhoc bookings in the short term** but will review at the end of September. Please be patient with us.

Our school risk assessment will continue to be regularly reviewed and you will be updated on any changes made in light of new information and advice from the LA / DfE.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Miss Bex (covering Mrs Dopierala's absence); Mrs Phoenix (Little Wrens TA); Mrs Carden (funded through Catch-up premium for two terms); Ms Pearson in The Nest supporting Miss Stonebrook and, finally, Mrs Wise who will be joining the Office team in preparation for Debbie's (Mrs Rowlands' retirement).

We also warmly welcome our new parents and families whose children are joining Little Wrens or YR this term as well as welcoming Grace into Y3 and Matthew into Y6. We hope you'll all feel very happy at Wrenbury and very quickly feel part of our school family.

Finally, I hope your sunflowers have bloomed brightly and brought a smile or two. The sunflowers alongside the staff carpark look glorious. Hopefully, they will still offer a wonderful welcome next week.

On behalf of all of the Wrenbury Team and governors, thank you for your continued understanding and support as we prepare for the start of the new school year. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Take care and best wishes,
Bessa Cador