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Headteacher: Ian Taylor

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted to say that the children's return to school was a success, and despite all the logistical changes, the school day has gone smoothly. I was thrilled to see our school filled with children again and to see so many happy and excited faces.

I am pleased to say that 96% of the children from Y1 – Y6 returned today.

We will be reviewing our risk assessment on a weekly basis and will keep you updated of any changes we make as we adjust to a new way of life at school. Please keep checking the website for any updates.

After reviewing how children enter school, can we please request that only one parent/carer enters the site with a child unless there are exceptional circumstances. After reviewing the first day back, we have decided that parents and carers from Y1 can use the Gulisborough Road or the Foxton Road gate. Can we please ask that only one parent/carer enters the school site.

Important notice regarding uniform and PE kit

What should my child wear to school?

Children should wear their usual school uniform most days. On days when children have PE lessons or if they choose an outdoor sporting Skills Academy Club, we ask that they wear their PE kit to school (PE t-shirt; leggings, shorts or jogging bottoms; trainers). **However, can they please wear their school uniform sweatshirt, fleece or cardigan on those days.** Children will remain in their PE kit all day on the days they have PE. This will help with social distancing and to help the logistics of the new school day.

Other FAQs

What should I do if my child is ill?

If your child is too ill to attend school, then please let us know in the normal way by contacting the school office before 9.30am 02476454843.

If your child has coronavirus symptoms, they should not attend school. You should let us know and arrange for your child to get a test.

If someone in your child's household has coronavirus symptoms your child should not attend school. They should self-isolate with the rest of the household until the person with symptoms has the results of a coronavirus test and then follow the guidance from public health. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Can my child wear a face mask?

Face coverings are not recommended in primary schools however, any children or adults who wish to do so may wear a mask or face covering in our school. If your child does wear a face mask please ensure that they can take it off and put it on safely by themselves. Please bear in mind that face masks used incorrectly pose more of a risk that not wearing a face mask at all.

How will you limit the number of people that my child has contact with?

Children will spend the day in a consistent group and only have sustained contact with children from their own class and the adults who work in their class.

The children from each class will learn together, play together and eat lunch together. Children might pass others in the corridor or the toilets, but this has a minimal risk as it is momentary contact with someone who does not have symptoms. Different classes will eat lunch in the hall at the same time however there will be at least 2 metres between each group of children.

How will social distancing be conducted in school?

Children find it difficult to consistently stay socially distant from other children and adults. Creating consistent groups/bubbles of children and limiting contact plays an important role.

Children will be socially distanced from any children in another class and have limited contacts however they will be free to mix with children from their own class, just as you would mix with members of your own household. Adults in school will ensure social distancing between themselves and will try to work 1 metre away from children whenever possible, however they will be closer to children when required.

Teachers will have an area of the classroom taped off that the children must not enter.

Children will sit in the same place each day in their classroom and all children will face forwards so that they are looking at the teacher and not working face to face.

Will my child share resources with others?

Children will be provided with their own age appropriate set of everyday resources (essential stationery). They will share some resources and equipment within their class group. All shared toys, books and other equipment are cleaned after use or are quarantined for 72 hours before being passed to another group/class. **How has the school enhanced its hygiene measures?**

Children are now much more familiar with the best way in which to wash their hands and time will be allocated to washing hands throughout the day. Children are encouraged to have good hygiene if coughing or sneezing through the 'catch, kill it, bin it posters'. Regular touch points are cleaned through the day by staff and by an on-site cleaner. All shared toys and equipment are cleaned after use or are quarantined for 72 hours before being passed to another group/class.

What if my child becomes ill at school?

Young children are ill in many ways, particularly in the autumn term. Children pick up colds, runny noses, have headaches and earaches and feel sick. We will respond to these symptoms in the same way in which we have always done. If a child becomes ill at school and displays coronavirus symptoms they will be isolated from their group and parents will be asked to collect their child as soon as possible. We will also ask that you arrange for a coronavirus test as soon as possible.

What happens if a child or adult at Ernesford Grange tests positive for coronavirus?

If a child or member of staff from your child's group tests positive, we will inform you. Your child and their group are very likely to be asked to self-isolate at home for 2 weeks. It is not necessary for other members of your family to self-isolate unless your child develops coronavirus symptoms.

If a child or staff member of another group at Ernesford Grange tests positive, we will inform parents however it is not likely to be necessary for your child to self-isolate.

We will seek advice and guidance from the local authority and public health whenever a positive test occurs and take the appropriate action.

I would like to remind all parents and carers of the arrangements for the start and end of the school day. Please use the allocated gate(s) and please follow government social distancing guidance.

*Please note one change, parents and carers from Y1 can use wither the Gulisborough Road gate or the Foxtton Road Gate.

Whole School Timetable									
Year Group	Start time	Session 1	Break	Session 2	Lunch - eating	Lunch - playtime	Afternoon session	Home time	Gate
Rec	0845	3 hr 15 mins			1200 - 1300 Dining Room		2hrs 5mins	1500	Guilsborough Road
1	0900	1hr 30mins	1030-1045	1hr 15mins	1200-1230 Hall	1230-1300	2 hrs 15mins	1515	Guilsborough Road or Foxtton Road
2	0850	1hr 25mins	1015-1030	1hr 30mins	1230-1300 Hall	1200-1230	2hrs 5 mins	1505	Foxtton Road
3	0840	1 hr 10mins	0950-1005	1hr 40mins	1210-1235 Classroom/outside	1145-1210	2 hrs 25mins Including break	1500	Foxtton Road
4	0845	1hr 20mins	1005-1020	1hr 25mins	1145-1210 Classroom/outside	1210-1235	2 hrs 30mins Including break	1505	<u>Oxendon</u>
5	0855	1 hr 40mins	1035-1050	1hr 45mins	1235-1300 Classroom/outside	1300-1325	1hr 50mins	1515	<u>Oxendon</u>
6	0840	1 hr 40mins	1020-1035	2hrs	1300-1325 Classroom/outside	1235-1300	1hr 35mins	1500	<u>Oxendon</u>

*In Autumn 1 school dinners will be sandwiches and grab bags. Food will be brought to the children in the designated eating area.

Very important information:

Classroom doors will be open between 5 and 10 minutes before the start time.

If you have multiple children in school, please use the gate for the year group that starts earliest. You can then stay on site and wait for the next classroom to open. Please ensure you use the same gate to enter and exit the school site.

Please do not arrive any more than 10 minutes before your child's start time above.

Please exit the school site immediately after your child(ren) are safely in their classroom.

Please remember, these measures are in place to limit numbers of parents on site at any one time.

Y5 and Y6 children can be dropped off at the gate and can make their own way to their classroom.