Dear Families,

I do hope you are well. We are all really looking forward all our children starting back with us with us at Rackenford in September and are very busy with preparations to ensure that school is a safe and welcoming place to be for all our children and staff.

As I am sure you will be aware the government have produced CoVid-19 guidance for schools welcoming back all children from September. We are mindful of this guidance and will have to make some adjustments to how things would normally be in school. We also have a risk assessment in place and modified some of our policies. Many of these adjustments and new ways of working have been in place since June 1st. Please be rest assured that we will not compromise on the care and nurture we provide our children, nor on our philosophy of education, which we hold so true.

We are sad that we have not been able to have children in all year groups back at school during the summer term. It has been lovely to see the children that have been in school and we are so excited to welcome back the rest of our school and our new intake from September.

**The first day back to school**

There are two staff training days on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September. Following this we will be having a staggered start when opening school the follow week to children. Firstly, we are opening to children in **Classes 1, 2 and 3 on** **Monday 7th September** followed by children in **Class R** (Mrs Hagley and Miss Horrell’s class) having their first day on **Tuesday 8th September**.

**School Transport**

Children will need to sit either with their sibling/s or with other children in their bubble. Please ensure that your children do not sit with other children in other bubbles.

**No need for school bags**

We need to really limit what children bring in from home. They should only bring in a water bottle and also a coat or sunscreen dependent on the weather. Please **do not bring in a bag, a backpack, toys, books**, **reading record**, etc.

**Reading books**

Children will read in school from our large stock of school reading books. Please do not bring books in from home. Reading books will continue to be changed via the book boxes outside the school gates on a Friday morning. Children in Classes R and 1 will keep the same home reading book for a week and read it frequently during that time. Once finished, please leave your child’s reading book in the plastic box at the school gate, by Friday morning along with their reading diary/record. **The reading record/diary will go home again on a Monday with a new book.**

**Packed lunches**

While we would encourage all children to have a delicious hot school lunch, especially when they are free for all children in years R, 1 and 2, we appreciate that you may prefer your child to have a packed lunch. Please ensure that the food is not in packaging which children are unable to open themselves, e.g. yoghurt tubes which children struggle to open and often put in their mouths before handing to an adult to open. Please can you only use packed lunch containers with solid hard surfaces that can be wiped cleaned or put in your dishwasher at home or sandwich bags that can be taken home. **No soft cloth bag type lunch containers please.**

**Classrooms and resources**

Our classrooms and playgrounds have a slightly different look and feel. We have to limit the resources we use. This means that our “loose parts learning” is restricted somewhat and each bubble will have access to their own play ground space and resources. In class each child will have their own set of learning resources which cannot be shared, eg pens, pencils, rulers, scissors, brushes, table top loose parts, etc. School will supply this. As the children are in bubbles, they will be able to sit next to each other at their desks and on the carpet/floor. Where possible staff will need to observe 2M social distancing from each other and 1M+ from children. The children in other bubbles will not mix but some staff may work across bubbles while maintaining social distancing.

Larger equipment, games and construction tools such as lego, duplo, polydron, can be shared within a bubble and will be washed by hand or in the dishwasher at the end of each day. This is the same for wooden blocks, maths equipment, train tracks, etc… Unfortunately at the moment the guidance restricts soft furnishings, soft toys and dressing up/role play costumes. However we will get round this by having a multitude of dress up days! This also restricts children from bringing in their comforters/cuddlies (which we normally support)

Children will have access to continuous provision and also messy/sensory play. This will be set out for individuals or in small groups at a time and replenished regularly.

**Keeping the School Clean**

The guidance states that schools must continue to ensure that there is a enhanced cleaning regime in school. This ensures that all surfaces, bathrooms, equipment and resources, etc. are sanitized and cleaned on a regular basis. Currently we employ a full time cleaner who is with us all day every day and we have a deep clean on a Wednesday afternoon. We are currently planning what the cleaning regime will look like in September as we will be open full time but please be assured that there will be additional cleaning taking place.

**Keeping ourselves clean**

We have sanitizer points around school and in each classroom and bathroom. Children and staff will wash their hands at regular intervals during the day. We have purchased two additional out door sinks for Class 2 to use.

**Uniform**

Currently children and staff are required to wear clean clothes to school each day, if possible we will continue this from September. Please ensure you have sufficient school uniform to allow for this. Uniform can be purchased via: <https://myclothing.com/rackenford-church-of-england-primary-school/24857.school>

**PE and outdoor Ed**

PE lessons will be outside and on a **Thursday for the whole school**. Your child will need to come to school in their PE kit (Blue/black shorts or leggings/tracksuit bottoms, white polo shirt, trainers, blue sweat shirt) We will try to get outdoors as much as possible and your teachers will advise you when your child needs to come dressed for outdoor ed.

**Entrance and exit to the school and classrooms**

On June 1st we introduced a staggered start and finish to the day and the use of separate entrances to the building. We will be continuing this in September. It is really important that you are punctual at these times as other groups may be sharing the entrances at a different time. We will be updating our video link on the website which will give you a walk though and a look at the classrooms. School is open from 8.45 and children who come to school by bus will arrive then and go straight into class.

We ask that you kindly observe social distancing and any one-way systems in place when dropping off and collecting your child.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Entrance to and from school** | **Times of start and finish** |
| Bus arrivals  Bus departures | Back Gate  Back gate | 8.45 – children go straight to their classroom via their entrance.  3.20 from class |
| Class R  Bubble 1 | Church gate  Back door by class R | 9.10  3.15 |
| Class 1  Bubble 1 | Front Gate  Main entrance | 9.00  3.25 |
| Class 2  Bubble 2 | Back Gate  Into the MULA | 9.10  3. 30 |
| Class 3  Bubble 2 | Church Gate  Into Class 3 | 9.00  3.30 |

**Contact with teachers, HoS and Admin**

Unfortunately parents will not be able to come into school. If you need to talk to a member of staff please can you make an appointment, by telephone or email, with our admin assistant, Michaela. A member of staff will then phone you at the end of a school day. If you need to speak to Michaela in reception please do so after all the children across the school have been dropped off, this will be from 9.20 am. Please arrive by the front gate, buzz in as usual. We ask that you wait in the playground observing social distancing, as there will be a ‘one in one out’ procedure in place at reception.

**Bubbles**

Our children are organized into two bubbles:

Bubble 1- Classes R & 1,

Bubble 2 – Classes 2 & 3.

We have decided to have two bubbles as this facilitates staff working across a bubble and opens up possibilities for children working across the bubble for interventions and focus teaching groups. This also allows for children to play together and see more of their friends across the school.

**Classes and PPE**

Government guidance states that all children should return to school in September. We have spent time planning our classrooms so that they will be inviting and safe for our children. There will be some changes with resources and seating. Please take a look at our walk through videos on our website, which show your child’s classroom, their bathroom and their entrance and exits to and from the school building. PPE will only be used in an emergency or when very close contact is necessary. Children are in bubbles and need only socially distance at 2M from other children in other bubbles. It is important for staff to remain socially distant at 2M from each other and 1M+ from children where 2M is not possible.

Some staff will need to work across the two bubbles (Mrs Taylor and Mrs Maude) so they will remain 2M socially distant at all times.

**What happens if….**

If your child shows symptoms of CoVid-19 or is unwell we will give you a call and ask you to collect them. Your child will wait with a member of staff in the ‘sensory room’ off class 1. The member of staff will need to wear PPE. Your child will have access to a separate toilet during this time (portaloo) It is important that you collect your child promptly and that you get your child tested for CoVid-19 if advised to do so by the member of staff. If after testing negative your child can return to school. If having tested positive for CoVid-19 your family will need to isolate for 14 days. We will inform the rest of the bubble that there is a positive case of CoVid-19 and all children and staff in that bubble will then need to isolate for 14 days. The other Bubble will not need to isolate.

If your child needs first aid or TLC, then a staff member may need to use PPE. This depends upon the injury or needs of the child. For example if they need help with a zipper on a coat then a staff member will simply help and then wash their hands. If the support is more intimate or applying first aid, then wearing of gloves and a mask may be necessary.

**Here is a break down of our school day**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bubble 2: Class 2 and Class 3 | |
| Start– 9.30 | Daily Mile |
| 9:30 – 10.30/45 | Session 1 |
| 10.30 – 11:00 | Break time in two groups |
| 11:00 – 12.30 | Session 2 |
| 12.30 – 1.00 | Assembly/mindfulness, etc |
| 1:00 – 1.30 | Lunch in hall/break |
| 1:30-2.00 | Break time/lunch in hall |
| 2.00 – 2.10 | Registration |
| 2:10 – 3:15 | Session 3 |
| 3:15 onwards | Break time/home time |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bubble 1: Class R and Class 1 | |
| Start– 9.30 | Daily mile, dancing, exercise |
| 9.30 – 10:30 | Session 1 & snack time |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Break time |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | Session 2 |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Lunch in hall/break time |
| 12:30 – 1:00 | Break time/lunch in hall |
| 1:00 – 1:10 | Registration |
| 1:10 – 1:40 | Assembly in class |
| 1:40 – 3:00 | Session 3 |
| 3:15 onwards | Break time/home time |

**Wrap Around Care**

Little Angels are open from 7am to 6pm providing early years nursery care, before, afterschool and holiday care for children in our local community and wider afield. If your child is attending Little Angels after school, your child will be escorted by a staff member at 3.30 and remain in a ‘before/afterschool bubble.’

**Birthdays**

We love to celebrate the birthdays of all our children and staff. We do this by lighting candles around a birthday garland, singing “happy birthday” and usually eating cake or something which children bring in to share. If this is something you would rather you child did not take part in please let us know and we will be respectful of your wishes.

**The Daily Mile**

As a school we start our day with the daily mile. This is a good walk around our lovely village. This will start up again from September. Children will be walking in their bubbles. Our Reception children join in with the Daily mile usually from January and until then they have daily morning exercise “Leap into Life” from 9.10 – 9.30 every morning.

**Yoga, mindfulness and dance**

We practice weekly yoga and daily mindfulness. If this is something that you would prefer your child not to take part in please can you let us know.

**Collective Worship, Assemblies, Church and Messy Church**

As a C of E primary school we are a community school inclusive of all religions and non. We teach ‘World religious Education (RE) following the Devon RE syllabus, common to all schools in Devon. We attend church on a Wednesday (in bubbles from September) in a collective worship led by our rector Steph Jeffs. Our collective worship and assemblies will be in class the rest of the week where we look at: values, character, what’s happening in the world, how children can get involved (service) and much more. Steph also works with each class (on a weekly rota) with “Messy Church” this is a session exploring bible stories through drama, art and craft activities. Steph used to be a drama teacher so we really welcome her time here at school. We are so pleased that this will continue from September.

**Active citizen, school council and social justice groups**

Children will still be able to work in cross bubble/school groups via ‘Zoom’ and ‘Teams’. This is exciting!

**Home learning (homework)**

As we are limiting resources travelling from school to home and vice versa we will be using digital platforms such as Class Dojo and BBC bitesize, for home learning.

**Lunches**

Jane our amazing cook is with us every day to cook delicious hot meals in our own kitchen. We would love you to support this by signing up your child to have school lunches. These are free to all children in Reception, years 1 and 2. We cater for vegetarians, vegans and all food allergies. If you are in receipt of any benefits you may qualify for “Free School Meals”. This means that school will receive the pupil premium grant for your child, which is a significant amount of money. Help us by applying for this top up funding if you think you may qualify. Even if your child is in Reception, years 1 and 2 your child’s meal will not be effected as it is free anyway, but your child’s education could be as school will have more money to spend on their education.

Little Angels also have their school meals provided by Jane, and we are excited that as from September this will be resumed.

**And to the future….**

Both Little Angels and Rackenford C of E Primary are awaiting further guidance from the government, which will enable us to get back to all our usual routines and ways of being, for example our lunch time and afterschool clubs timetable, Little Angles coming over for play, stories and lunch and more. We will keep you updated as and when we know more and as the lock down eases further.

With our very best wishes and kind regards

Sammy, Sarah and all the team