Thursday, 11th March, 2021.

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Colleagues,

**Covid-19 Update Letter.**

I hope this letter finds you all well.

I cannot describe how wonderful it is to have the vast majority of our children and colleagues back in the school building; there is a real buzz about the place and it really does make me happy and proud to be your Headteacher! It made me smile on Monday when one Mum, during drop off, said it was nice to 'smell the school'! This took a few seconds to 'sink in' but then I realised what she meant, schools do have a particular 'smell' - a mixture of disinfectant and paper...it brought a lump to my throat. Thank you to that Mum.

The main purpose of this letter is to notify you of the changes that will take place AFTER the Easter holidays. We are writing and telling you now so that you have plenty of time if you need to make arrangements.

**1. School Dinners.**

After the Easter holidays we are hoping to re-open our school Dining Hall at lunchtimes so that it can be used by particular bubbles/classes. We obviously cannot open it to all our pupils yet as it will need a good clean between bubble 'sittings' and with 625 children, this would take all day! We are looking at using the Dining Hall on a rote system. Watch this space...

**2. Friday Opening Times.**

As the rules and regulations around Covid continue to relax this means that, after Easter, we can go back to opening for a full week and NOT close at lunchtimes on Friday. I am sure most of you will be relieved to hear this and I thank you for bearing with us on this matter. So, from week commencing 12th April, 2021, the school will be open all day on Fridays, the first Friday being Friday, 16th April, 2021.

**3. Home from Home (our before and after-school childcare provision)**

This will continue to operate each morning from 07.30am but will continue to close every night at 4pm so that we can carry out a clean of this area, ready for the next day. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause families.

**4. School Uniform.**

After Easter school uniform remains optional until the end of the school year. This is to help with cost and reduce the need for parents/carers to feel the need to go out and buy new uniform at this point in the school year. However, I would still recommend clean clothes every day. My advice would be to alternate with school uniform (if it still fits) every other day.

**5. Change of Timings for Drop-off and Pick-up.**

We are changing the timings for drop off and pick up for some year groups, but only very slightly. This will help us to tighten up the school day as the staggered start and finish times are very disruptive. Below are the new drop off and pick-up times that will begin on Monday, 12th April, 2021.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Arrival** | **Entry / Exit Door** | **Going** |
| **N** | 08.30am | Nursery Door | 11.30am |
| 12.15pm | Nursery Door | 3.15pm |
| **R** | 8.50am  | External Classroom Doors | 3.05pm  |
| **1** | 9.00am | External Classroom Doors | 3.15pm |
| **2** | 9.00am | Y2 (south) Glass StairwellExit doors same as now | 3.15pm |
| **3** | 8.40am | Y2 (south) Glass StairwellExit doors same as now | 2.55pm |
| **4** | 8.50am | North Glass Stairwell (next to Home from Home) | 3.05pm |
| **5** | 8.40am | Dining Hall Doors | 2.55pm |
| **6** | 9.00am | Dining Hall doors | 3.15pm |
| **Thrive**  | 8.40am  | Thrive room door  | 2.55pm  |

Yellow highlighted shows which year group timings have changed after Easter.

***It is vital that children arrive at school and are collected on time as some bubbles are using the same entrances and exits and we do not want to cross bubbles.***

**Q. Why are we changing the drop-off and pick-up times? (Parent)**

At the moment there is far too much 'slippage' and lost learning time during the day, as staggered starts and finishes mean some children are missing out on up to 50 mins teaching a week as they sit and wait for classmates to arrive and/or depart - this is not good enough for our children, especially after some of them have only been in school for 11 weeks since this time last year; every school minute counts!

The good thing about the staggered start and finish times is that it is much calmer and there are much less issues and complaints from our neighbours re parking and traffic, which can only be a good thing as it means it is safer for our children. Staggered starts and finishes also stops children from different bubbles mixing on entrance and exit from the school. This is why we are keeping them but tightening up on them. Please make sure your child is ready and waiting outside their doors in the morning.

If you have more than one child in school the arrangements will be as they are now - you can drop off and collect at the new earlier time so that you are not waiting too long.

**6. First Friday Back - Big Event!**

On ***Friday 16th April*** we will be re-launching our Housepoints system! All children and staff are invited to attend school in their Housepoint colours that day (free of charge) and we will be holding inter-house competitions and challenges too! This will be a fun day for all so please make sure you put it in your calendars and tell your children about it! More information to follow.

***N.B.***

***I think it is important to point out (and most of you will already have realised this) that all the above is based on the current UK Government roadmap out of Covid. If this changes and cases begin to rise again, we may have to revise the above. If this happens, we will try to give you as much notice as possible.***

If you have any more questions and/or ideas on keeping us all safe then please do get in touch with me:

head@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk or 07792 402654 (text is better between 8am and 6pm).

Stay safe and remember - **hands - face - space and good ventilation.**

Assuring you of our best intentions at all times.

Yours Sincerely

Lloyd Mason-Edwards

Mr Lloyd C. Mason-Edwards

Headteacher