

Tuesday 2 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Plans for the return of all children to school

We are excited to be opening the school to all children from Monday 8 March 2021. We are sure you and your children have been equally looking forward to this moment for a while now!

This letter sets out some practicalities for the full return. I would be grateful if you would take a few moments to read it so we can ensure a smooth return for children, parents and staff alike.

Drop-offs and pick-ups

The school day will start at the usual time of **8.45am**. Doors will open at **8.30am**, so please do not arrive before this time. Children should be dropped at the blue gate by the main building to make their own way to classrooms. At the usual pick-up time of **3pm**, please wait outside the blue gate for children to be released.

As you arrive at school, please observe the yellow markers on the walls and ensure safe distancing with others. After dropping off, leave promptly and cross the road to walk back to your cars on the other side.

Uniform and equipment

All children should wear full school uniform and bring PE clothes to school. PE days for all classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. Since classrooms will be well ventilated, please ensure they have their jumpers, and perhaps an extra under-layer on colder days! There is no requirement for children to wear masks during the school day.

All children should have a clearly named water bottle and C2 and C3 children need a pencil case. Please also return any school resources and books that your children have used at home in recent weeks.

Breakfast and after-school clubs

Our breakfast and after-school clubs continue to be available. However, we do ask that you only make use of these if there are good work or medical reasons to do so. Children must be booked in a week in advance please with the school office.

Safety and hygiene

Staff at school have completed a comprehensive risk assessment ahead of the full return of children. Our enhanced programme of sanitisation of surfaces and equipment and room ventilation will continue, and we will remind children of the need for regular hand-washing and other hygiene precautions.

Covid-19 symptoms and testing

As before, **it is very important that if your child or anyone in your household displays possible Covid-19 symptoms, you should all remain at home and get tested as soon as you can.** Please contact us with details of any symptoms and testing immediately, by telephone or by emailing admin@cartmel.cumbria.sch.uk. Of course, we sincerely hope we will not have to send any children home or request anyone to isolate. Should any Covid-19 cases occur, we will be led by health authority guidance, and will keep you fully informed about any action that is required.

Communications

We will continue to post school messages and news through **School Spider**. Please make sure you are set up and remain logged in so that you receive all School Spider messages, and feel free to contact the office if you have any problems with the app. We can't hold face-to-face meetings with parents and carers at the moment, so please contact the office to arrange a phone call if you need.

We will continue to use the **Seesaw** platform for homework and any home-teaching that is required. Arrangements for ordering school dinners via **School Money** are unchanged, and we will alert you when the latest round of bookings is available. The deadline for booking dinners each week is Thursday at 2pm.

Catching up

We know that home learning has not been easy for all families, and teachers are ready to help children make up progress if needed. However, our immediate priority is that children settle happily back into their classrooms and enjoy seeing their friends again. Catching up will occur naturally over time, but wellbeing is a crucial focus in the shorter term.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we settle into our new routines, and thank you for all you have done to support your children in recent weeks. We are really looking forward to having everyone together again. As ever, please contact us if you have any questions about our arrangements.

Finally, please do remember to bring your completed artwork for our 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' exhibition in with you on the first day back.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Battersby
Headteacher

Dorothy Milner
Chair of Governors