ELLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to remind you of some of the plans that we have made for reopening school for all children from Thursday of next week and **to inform you of any changes that we have made since I** wrote to you in July. The changes have resulted from updated guidance that we have received over the summer holiday and planning that we have done to make the transition back into school as easy as we can for the children.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school on a full time basis and, as you will recall, our classes have been organised into four distinct 'bubbles' to enable us to manage the social distancing and separation of groups that is still required and to reduce the congregation of adults at the following start and pick up times:

Year 5 and 6 children, who make their own way to and from school and are the only children who are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school with them, will have a start time of 08.40 and they will enter school via the main gate nearest to the community lounge and through the double doors next to the Year 6 classroom. Year 5 and 6 children will have a finishing time of 3.15 and they will leave via the main gate nearest to the community lounge.

Year 3 and 4 children, who must be accompanied to school by a responsible adult, will also have a start time of 8.40 and will enter the school via the main gate nearest to nursery and through their outside classroom doors. Parents, including those with younger children, will be able to wait in the school yard until the other classes open but they must social distance from other parents and keep their children distanced from other children. Year 3 and 4 children, who must be collected by a responsible adult, will have a finishing time of 3.15 and will leave via the main gate nearest to nursery. Parents collecting children from two different age groups will again be able to wait in the school yard but they must social distance from other parents and keep their children distanced from other children in more than one bubble can drop them off at the latest start time for one of their children in the afternoon. Please inform class teachers if this is your intention.

Children in nursery and reception classes will attend school at 8.45 and 9.00 respectively and they will enter school via the main gate next to nursery. They should be collected at their normal finishing times, which are 11.45 and 3.00 respectively, and they will leave school via the main gate next to nursery. **Parents of nursery children should bring their children into the nursery yard and remain with them until they are collected by a member of staff. Nursery children should also be collected from the nursery yard.**

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will attend school at 9.00 and they will enter school via the main gate nearest to the community lounge. They should be collected at their normal finishing time, which is 3.00, and they will leave school via the main gate next to the community lounge.

There will be a one way system at both main gates to enable parents dropping off and picking up to remain socially distanced and I would be grateful if you would leave the premises as quickly as possible to avoid a build-up of people. As in other walks of life, I would be grateful if parents and carers would also wear face coverings whilst on the school grounds as an additional precaution.

It is important that you send your children to school with only the essential items that are needed each day, which includes a packed lunch box, if your child does not have school dinners. You may also send your child with a named water bottle that they can keep at their work station throughout the day

and children in Key Stage 2 can bring fruit for break time. Children in EYFS and KS1 will continue to be provided with free fruit as a result of government funding for this.

Children should bring their reading book to school on the days requested by their teachers but **we will not be sending home reading records or planners and homework will be set online unless you inform us that your child does not have access to the internet at home.** We will be keeping the staff School 360 emails open so that you can keep in contact with class teachers, who will also be posting weekly planning on line so that any children who are sent home from school as a precaution or as a result of their bubble needing to isolate can continue to work from home. Messages that are normally passed on to staff at the classroom door should also be sent via telephone or email.

Please do not send your child with a pencil case as we will provide each child with the equipment that they need, which will be kept at their work station and will be cleaned at the end of each day.

PE kit should be worn throughout the day on the days that the children have a P.E. lesson. This should be kit that is suitable for outdoor P.E. and should include trainers rather than sand shoes. Please note that there will be no P.E. lessons next week and that P.E. days for the autumn term have been changed as follows: Tuesday for Years 3 and 4, Wednesday for Years 5 and 6, Thursday for Years 1 and 2 and Monday for Nursery and Reception.

Visitors to the school will be strictly controlled and parents will not be allowed into school without appointments to avoid close contact at the main entrance and telephone appointments will be made in the first instance. Staff will not be wearing PPE, unless they are dealing with children who are sick or display symptoms, and children should not wear face masks in school. Lidded bins will be provided at each entrance for disposal of face masks if your child is wearing one on arrival and sealed bags will be available for storage of masks that are reusable.

It is of course really important that children are not sent into school if they are unwell or they, or other members of the household, are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and confirmed cases within the school will be managed in line with advice from our local Health Protection team.

We currently have 'Health Care Plans' in place for all children with medical conditions that we have previously been informed about. This includes children with asthma and allergies. To enable us to keep your children safe, it is really important that we have up to date information about any ongoing or new medical conditions that children have, advice that you have received from the child's GP or consultant in light of the current situation and emergency contact details. So that we can update the 'Health Care Plans' that are currently in place and create new plans where necessary, please complete the enclosed 'Administration of Medication' form if your child has a medical condition that we need to be aware of and return it, <u>before school reopens if possible</u>, along with any medication that your child needs to be administered in school.

Please note that any medication previously kept in school that is out of date has been disposed of.

I am really looking forward to welcoming the children back in September and I am confident that we have done all that we can to enable us to keep them, their families, the staff and members of the community safe on their return to school. We will of course continue to adapt the procedures that we have in place in line with government guidance and our ongoing reflection on how things are working and whether we can improve them as these unprecedented times continue.

Yours Sincerely

Mr K Vardy (Headteacher)