



The Crossways Schools Newsletter 7



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8th March 2021

Dear Families,

Today was quite a day for us all as we welcomed all the children back to school. There was definitely a buzz on the playground at the start of the day. It was fantastic to see so many happy, smiling faces; some children were positively brimming with excitement and skipped in to school!

Teachers and school staff have spent time today, supporting the children with a safe return to school and I would like to thank parents for your support with this. It has been important today to remind children about all the preventative measures we have put in place to help keep them safe and their roles in this.

An important part of our risk assessment are the staggered starts/end times and the arrangements for pick up and drop offs. We reviewed the system today and will continue to do so. Following today's review, we have made a slight adjustment to the arrangements on the junior playground and would like to provide a few important reminders:

- Please arrive at the time of your slot and not before.
This is an important part of our system to ensure that there are not too many people outside of school at the same time and to support with social distancing and reducing contacts. Each year group has a 5 minute window – we appreciate children are keen to get to school in the morning, but we do ask for your help with this by not arriving before your slot.

Year Group	Start	Finish
EYFS	8.50-8.55	15.10
1	8.45-8.50	15.20
2	8.40-8.45	15.15
3	8.45-8.50	15.25
4	8.45-8.50	15.25
5	8.40-8.45	15.20
6	8.40-8.45	15.20

- The playground gates are opened 8.40am. As the children are going straight in to the classrooms, we do need to stick to time to ensure that the teachers are in the classrooms ready to welcome the children in.
- Year 3 and Year 6 should enter the playground from the pedestrian gate nearest the car park. If Year 6 do arrive before the gates are opened at 8.40am, please form a socially distanced queue from the pedestrian gate and along the pavement running alongside the playground.
- Year 4 and Year 5 should enter the playground from the pedestrian gate nearest the field. If Year 5 arrive before the gates are opened at 8.40am, please form a socially distanced queue. From tomorrow, we will be opening the gate onto the field and have created a new pathway for children to walk across and on to the playground. Please queue on the left hand side of the gate (as you look at the school) and along the path next to the field (towards the underpass).

We hope that there will not be a need for queuing if families arrive at their allotted time slot, however hope that these revised measures will support with keeping distance and queuing safely. The pavement is quite wide and we ask that families do stand to one side to ensure that other path users can get by. You may also find it useful to use the pavement on the other side of the road.

- No parents should enter the playground at the start of the day.
- Parents of Year 5 & 6 children who have a younger child in Year 3 or 4, can drop younger children at the same time. Siblings will then be asked to wait on the playground, with a member of staff, until their allotted arrival time. All other Y3 & 4 children should arrive in their slot 8.45-8.50am.

- Parents of Year 2 children who have a younger child in Year 1 or EYFS, can drop younger children at the same time. Siblings will then be asked to wait on the playground, with a member of staff, until their allotted arrival time. The same applies when Y1 children arrive who have an EYFS sibling. All other Y1 and EYFS children should arrive in their time slots.
- It was very busy at the end of the school day today. To help with this, please can parents arrive at their time slot and not arrive early. This will reduce the number of people around school at this time and in turn, alleviate any congestion.
- A reminder also that only one adult per family to drop off and collect please. This is an important part of our system to ensure that there are not too many people outside of school at the same time and to support with social distancing and reducing contacts.

We really appreciate your help with this. As you can imagine there are large numbers of children and families arriving and leaving each day and we want to make it as safe as we can for everyone.

Remote Learning Survey

We carried out our second Remote Learning survey last term, thank you to everyone who responded. We had a fantastic response and it was good to receive feedback from parents.

Throughout lockdown, our staff have worked incredibly hard, ensuring that the remote learning supported children working at home and also providing in school learning for vulnerable children and those children whose parents are key workers. We have a large number of key worker parents and therefore had a significant number of children in school every day.

Since the start of January, and in response to the previous survey in November, we have adapted and enhanced our remote learning offer for families, for example adding the regular live feedback sessions and opportunities for social interaction with peers and teachers. We also aligned the learning and curriculum during this time so that the children accessing Remote Learning were completing the same (or very similar) activities to those accessing the in-school provision. This was very positively received.

Teachers have been monitoring pupil engagement throughout and providing regular feedback to children – either via Google Classroom/Evidence Me, through the live sessions or by phone/email with parents. The response from the survey regarding children's involvement in the learning was very positive and reflected what teachers were finding with regards to levels of engagement.

The school were also able to support families with devices. We were provided with some laptops from the DfE and were able to loan these to families to support children with accessing the home learning. In addition, we have been able to support other families without broadband by providing additional data.

One key area has been communication, both parents receiving information from school in a timely manner and also being able to contact class teachers or other members of staff for support when required. The majority of parents felt that this was a strength and that it had been relatively easy to liaise with school staff during lockdown.

We will be looking in detail at the responses from parents and what lessons we can learn as we move forward. We hope that we will not need to move to remote learning again, however, we will be reviewing the strengths of working in this way and look to see what might continue, for example, teachers using it to set home learning (usual home learning rather than remote learning) or continuing to use Google Classroom for communications. Further details to follow.

I would like to thank every member of staff for working tirelessly over the period of lockdown. Each and every one has gone above and beyond to do their very best for the children at Crossways. We have had many many emails from parents saying thank you. I would also like to thank you for working with us and for all your support and positive feedback. It has been a fantastic example of the Crossways community working together.

Message from the Chair of Governors

It is wonderful to have all the children back in school, and whilst school life is still restricted, it feels like we are hopefully moving closer to more normal times.

During this period of lockdown governors have been focused on the priority areas of: safeguarding of the children, remote learning, reviewing the re-opening risk assessments, financial monitoring and staff well being. The whole staff team have been working tirelessly to do their very best for our children both in school and those learning remotely during this time, I think is really important to recognise all their efforts, but also the quality of learning that has taken place and the connection that has been kept with children and their families. Thank you all!

Upon the children's return governors will prioritise children's mental health and well being, as well as ensuring the recovery curriculum and catch up funding are having the desired impact in supporting the children.

I don't want to speak too soon, but I hope the worst of the disruption to the children's education is behind us, and we can continue to bring all of the Crossways values to bear in supporting our children to thrive. I remain optimistic that in the summer term we will be able to come together as a school community, in ways we have taken for granted in the past, to fully re-connect and hopefully celebrate being a few steps closer to life as we knew it. Let's all keep our fingers crossed.

*Best wishes to you all and your families
Emma Aiken-Jones*

Upcoming Dates:

Mon 8 th March	All children back in school. Science Week
Thurs 1 st April	End of term 4
Mon 19 th April	Start of term 5
Fri 28 th May	End of term 5
Mon 7 th June	Start of term 6
Fri 18 th Jun	INSET Day 4
Tues 20 th July	End of term 6
Weds 21 st July	INSET Day 5 – this is a disaggregated INSET day and staff training has taken place in twilight training sessions throughout the year.

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South Gloucestershire

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