

Monday 19th July 2021

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of this academic year, no doubt, like me, you will have been reflecting on what a different year it has been for us all this year, and also thinking ahead to next academic year and the potential changes to life in school.

As you know, this year, we have had many COVID-19 related measures in place as part of the guidance for schools that we have needed to follow. This has restricted some of the things we have been able to do throughout the whole of the school year. I am sure that whilst we understand the reasons for the necessary restrictions, I expect you share our frustrations regarding the limitations to some of the usual ways of doing things at Crossways and not being able to enjoy many of the great and exciting activities and events that I know are very much part of normal school life.

We are pleased that within the guidance for schools from step 4, we will be able to remove the majority of current restrictions and enjoy things returning to normal. Some measures, such as washing / sanitising hands and ensuring good ventilation will continue. We have made a few minor changes to some of the previous day to day arrangements building on some of the successes from this year. School Leaders have updated our risk assessment to reflect the latest guidance. Please find the arrangements for September below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Timings of the school day

We will return to the usual timings of the school day and will no longer operate staggered start and end times. Timings therefore will be:

Infants	8.50 – 3.30
Juniors	8.45 – 3.30

Lunchtimes and break times will also return to usual and all children will be able to eat their lunches in the hall.

In the Junior school, children will be able to buy toast at morning break time. We know that the children will be really happy to see this return! In the Infant school, we will continue to provide children with a piece of fruit/vegetables at break time.

Pick up / drop off

We have made a few minor adjustments to arrangements for pickups and drop offs.

Infants:

Parents will be able to come onto the playground at both the beginning and end of the school day. We ask that parents wait near to the area where their child's class will line up. When the bell rings, children will line up and be collected by their class teacher. Please can parents help us with this by standing back from the line in the morning so that the children can line up and teachers can easily see when all the children are ready to go in.

The gates will be opened onto the playground in the morning by the member of staff who is on duty. At the end of the day, members of staff will open the gates and all classes will exit from the playground. This is a change from previous arrangements and one that we hope will be successful, especially in supporting parents with more than one child at the infant school and who are therefore collecting from different classes.

Juniors:

Parents will be able to come onto the playground at both the beginning and end of the school day. When the bell rings, children will line up and be collected by their class teacher. The gates will be opened onto the playground in the morning by the member of staff who is on duty. At the end of the day, gates will be opened at 3.20pm by a member of staff to allow parents to wait on the playground.

Bubbles:

We will not be operating a bubble system in September. Everyone will be able to move around the school freely and staff will be able to work in multiple year groups and classes. This means that we will be able to return to having assemblies – it will be lovely to be able to talk to the children face to face in assembly rather than on Teams!

Facemasks:

We will not be asking staff or parents to wear facemasks in September. This will be a personal choice for anyone wishing to do so.

This may be subject to change in the case of advice by PHE in regards to any change in case numbers or local guidance changes.

PE:

Junior children will return to bringing their PE kits to school rather than coming to school in their PE kits.

For the start of the year, infant children will continue to come to school in their kit on PE days. We will keep this under review.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs:

Both of the clubs will return to usual opening hours and the limit on numbers will be lifted. We look forward to welcoming more of our children back to breakfast club and after school club.

Extra-curricular clubs

We will be looking again at our extra-curricular clubs and provision in the Autumn term as we hope to be able to return to a more normal offer. This is such an important part of school life for children and we are keen to be able to offer a variety of clubs for children. Further details to follow in the Autumn term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs N McMahan
Executive Head Teacher