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Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear families,

We are very excited to be welcoming back all of our children to Crossways in September and are writing to you to update you on the plans that have been put in place to allow this to happen. We have developed this with consideration of the government guidance provided on Thursday 2nd July and also further advice from South Glos Local Authority and the local Hub of schools. This has allowed us to develop plans that support **pupils in their transition back to school whilst promoting safety and wellbeing of all.**

Our Intention

Our intention is clear – that safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff is our **absolute priority** and the mitigation of risk must be prevalent in all decisions taken. This spectrum covers physical risk of infection but also the mental wellbeing and security of all stakeholders. We aim to be open and transparent with our plans, realising that they may have to adapt and change as time progresses, responding to national cues. Pupils and staff must exist in a safe and positive way within the proposed structure and plans must be sustainable as all pupils return to Crossways.

Beginning of term

Term begins on Tuesday 1st September and South Glos have tasked all schools to return current children to classrooms in full by Monday 7th September. We are keen to return all children before this point, whilst taking time to ensure that the plans we have in place are working as expected for everyone's safety. Therefore the first few days of term will follow this timetable for Y1-6 (EYFS following the processes set out in a separate letter sent out already):

Day	Children in school
Tuesday 1st September	INSET day. No children in school.
Wednesday 2nd September	Year 1, Year 3, Year 5
Thursday 3rd September	Year 2, Year 4, Year 6
Friday 4th September	Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6
Monday 7th September	All year groups – EYFS first day, following EYFS induction timetable

Timings

As part of ongoing safety procedures produced by the Government, staggered entry and exit times will be in place from the first week until we notify you otherwise. The procedures will continue in much the same way as those in place for children who have been in school in the period since June. Pupils and parents will enter through designated gates following the one way system in place for entry/exit of playgrounds. Parents will also have to follow the procedures in place. Pupils will be unable to bring bikes and scooters to school at the

present time. When pupils enter the playground they will need to move immediately into their class lines. They will not be able to play on equipment or the playground before school begins/ends. To allow this to happen the following timings will apply to the different year groups:

Year group	Start	Finish
EYFS	09:00	15:10 during phased entry (until Mon 28 th Sept) 15:40 after
Year 1	08:50	15:30
Year 2	08:40	15:20
Year 3	09:05	15:45
Year 4	08:55	15:35
Year 5	08:45	15:25
Year 6	08:35	15:15

Entering/exiting the playground

All children and parents will need to follow the one way entry and exit system to move around the school site.

	Entry	Drop off/pick up	Exit
Infant site	All to enter the site via the pedestrian gate near the zebra crossing	Parents to drop off/pick up children by the gate onto the playground. No parents to enter the playground. There will be a space to step aside if your child is having difficulties separating from you.	All to exit via the gate next to the carpark
Junior site	All to enter the site via the pedestrian gate on the junior side of the carpark	Parents to enter the edge of the playground to drop off/collect child and move across playground following one way system. Children to cross onto main playground to join their line. There will be a space to step aside if your child is having difficulties separating from you.	All to exit via the gate at the gazebo end of the playground next to the field

Bubbles

As has happened throughout children returning to school since June, children will work in 'bubbles' (designated groupings). This will take the format of a double bubble. When children are within the school building, they will be in class bubbles and will only work with children from their class. There will be no class mixing or whole school gatherings e.g. assemblies in hall, lunchtimes together in hall. When children are outside the school building including arriving at school, playtimes, lunchtime playtimes and leaving school, this will take the form of a double bubble where children from both classes within a year group will be with one another. This will allow children to see other friends and access/leave the site more efficiently and safely. Children will be encouraged to maintain an arm's length distance from others wherever possible when on the playground to minimise risk, although as guidelines indicate, this is not an all or nothing approach.

Curriculum

As many children return to school for the first time and for others return in a different way to previously, we are beginning term with a 'Rediscovery Curriculum' which helps children develop links with school again, builds stamina to learn, allows children to express feelings regarding lockdown and build relationships within their new class. As part of this curriculum, all children will recommence their English and Maths learning to close gaps, teach aspects that have been missed and move into the learning for the relevant year group. Through this:

- Teachers will devise a series of assessment opportunities to ascertain where children are with their learning, identify gaps and next steps (these will not be formal tests).
- Tasks will be open ended activities designed to establish what children know and to identify next steps.
- Children will be made aware of the purpose of the activities and be fully part of understanding that there may be gaps in their learning that we will support them to address.
- Activities may include videos or picture prompts as a stimulus for discussion and subsequent writing to support with developing stamina in writing.
- There will be a strong emphasis in all year groups on Reading and Phonics in EYFS & KS1. This will include teachers choosing an end of the day book that can be shared every day.

Then through other curriculum times:

- All classes will explore a text as a whole school community based topic. Work will culminate in a whole school art piece which can be displayed in the schools as part of rebuilding our school community and working together. Children will be able to recognise that they are an important part of that community and their contribution to it.
- Afternoons will take a mental health/emotional wellbeing based approach where art/music/drama is used to support staff with attuning to children's needs and in providing children with the space to share and discuss experiences during lockdown.
- Focus of the afternoons will be to:
 - rebuild the school community;
 - to support children with re-engaging with school;
 - develop/reinforce effective learning behaviours;
 - revisit school and class charters to ensure consistency in expectations for behaviour;
 - provide space to be.

This 'Rediscovery Curriculum' will last approximately 3 weeks, although provides opportunity to be shortened/extended as appropriate. This curriculum approach is fully supported and advocated by the Local Authority.

Resources

The following details apply for resources that are brought onto/off site:

- PE kit- No PE will take place during the w/b 1.9.20. Year group teachers will then be in touch to let you know what days your child will have PE. On these days, children will need to wear their PE kit to school for the full day. They will need a spare set of clothes in their bag with them in case they get wet/muddy. This avoids children changing and accidentally putting on the clothes of others. This applies to all children.
- Children can bring bags and coats into school along with lunchboxes and water bottles.
- School dinners can be ordered in the usual way. This will take the form of packed lunch to begin with and following this we will look at moving towards the usual menus as the year progresses.
- Junior children can bring a single, small pencil case into school.
- Children will again have reading books and these will be given out on a Monday. Each week, children will be given an appropriate number of books. These need to be returned on a Friday morning and they will then be stored over the weekend before new books are allocated on a Monday. Changes in books will not happen outside of these times. If a book is not finished, children do not need to return these books but they will then not be able to return them until the following Friday.

- Unfortunately we will be unable to begin the term selling toast at break times at the Juniors. We therefore encourage all children to bring a piece of fruit with them that they can have during break time. We are hoping to introduce systems to allow for the purchase of toast as the term progresses.

Breakfast Club/After School Club

We are pleased to be able to reopen the Breakfast Club and After School Club from Monday 7th September. These will not be able to run in exactly the same ways as previously due to the current guidelines and restrictions that we have to work within. Further details on this will be sent in a separate communication once finalised.

Further information

Through this communication we have tried to cover the key points to help families understand the procedures for September and plan accordingly. For any further details and more specific information, please see the full risk assessment available on the school website at:

<https://www.crosswaysschools.co.uk/sample-page/school-updates/>

The Local Authority have issued a FAQ sheet that we send alongside this document. We will issue further guidance before September to cover additional questions.

We hope this gives you a good understanding of the processes and safety measures that we are putting in place to allow all children to return.

Can we take this opportunity to wish you a lovely summer and we look forward to welcoming you all back into Crossways in September.

Yours sincerely



Hazel Packer
Federation HT (Infant)



Paul Medicott
Federation HT (Junior)



Emma Aiken-Jones
Chair of Governors