Date: 22/07/2020

Dear Parents,

FAO parents of children in **SLIC (Otter, Beaver and Seal class) – September 2020**

As I am sure you are aware, the government has set out guidance for the full re-opening of schools in September. Kent County Council have now also produced their guidance so this letter is to share with you the plan for September. We will explain the staggered start and finish times, walk and drive drop off and collect rules and locations, and the rules around equipment and items from home.

For those children returning to school for the first time since partial closure, a home school agreement must be completed and sent back to school by either email, or a signed paper copy on the first day back.

Each child will be in class group with 2 or more members of staff. While the guidance for mainstream schools is that children remain in one class bubble, they have stated that pupils in specialist provisions can move between two classes. We will be extremely careful about mixing bubbles but we do feel it is essential for many of our children’s academic progress and emotional well-being if they are used to attending mainstream that we continue to do so.

As stated previously we will focus on transitioning across the SLIC classes and welcoming the new pupils into SLIC gradually over the first three days. The children will have a separate start, break, worship, lunch and finish time to other classes to reduce the number of staff and children who have contact with each other.

**Start and finish times and locations**

SLIC through the front entrance**.**

SLIC children will be dropped and collected from the front of the school, please stop in the marked spaces. We will have some year 5 and 6 mainstream parents also accessing a drop off system, so it is important that you do not stop to chat to other parents or get out of your car. We will ensure that SLIC staff are available to collect the children and deliver them to you at the end of the day.

**SLIC** start time 8.45 finish time 2.45

Current guidance states that parents will not be able to come into school in September. If you need to contact a member of staff please phone the office or email the member of staff directly. The children also have contact books for messages.

To help keep everyone safe we are asking as many parents as possible to walk to school and follow the government guidance by keeping to the strict staggered start and finish times. It is essential you do not arrive too early or late, as we need to keep children in their class groups within school times. We also ask parents to move off the school grounds as soon as possible after drop off and collection, plus remember to follow current social distancing rules whilst on school grounds.

**Driving drop off zones**

Although we would like as many families as possible to walk we know this is not viable for all families so we are introducing a trial driving drop off and collect zone for each phase. At the end of the day your child will be directed to your car once you reach the front of the car queue.

If you have additional children in other year groups they will need to be dropped off their drop off areas, at the correct time, but if you are concerned about different drop off times for siblings we are asking you to drop off all of your children at the time and location of your child in SLIC. Adults will direct the other children to their classrooms.

In order to keep everyone safe we need to follow the staggered start and finish times which we know is frustrating and time consuming, particularly with multiple children, but this is deemed necessary at the moment. If you need your children to be in school for longer please consider breakfast and or afterschool club which are both available each day. Details for breakfast and after school club will follow in a separate letter.

In order to keep Main Road free of queues please:

1. Only arrive at your designated times
2. Turn left into Main Road when leaving Gorsewood Road and turn around at the next available opportunity if necessary
3. Do not park in Gorsewood road, as this needs to be kept as a two way road
4. Merge in turn as you leave the front carpark into Gorsewood road.
5. Do not park in Main Road where cars are queuing to enter the school

**Equipment and items from home**

We need to reduce the number of items that move between home and school. Therefore please only send your child to school with their lunch, a water bottle, their PE kit on the first day and a coat (if necessary) in a bag which can easily be hung on their peg. Please ensure their water bottle is cleaned and refilled each day. Although water fountains cannot be used at school, children will be able to fill their bottles using the class tap. Unless told otherwise by their teachers (this will come to you via an email and not a verbal suggestion via your child) they should not bring anything else into school.

We have chosen to reduce the length of lunchtime to ensure the children have sufficient learning time within their day. This allows us to stagger starts and finishes plus lunch which will further reduce the number of contacts children will have with others.

Within class children will not be expected to follow social distance guidelines although they will have enough space to do so but they will be expected to stay away from other class groups and the adults as much as possible, there will be additional cleaning and good hand and respiratory hygiene will be followed. Each child will have their own resources and tray which only they will use. This will be provided by the school and set up before the children arrive. The classrooms and communal areas in school such as the hall will continue to be cleaned regularly, as will the children’s workspaces.

We will need to reduce movement around the school and within the classroom to an absolute minimum. Children will be expected to wash their hands before they enter and after they leave the classroom on entry to school, at break, worship, lunch and before going home. Please practice good hand hygiene by handwashing frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds and respiratory hygiene, using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, which are then put in a bin.

School uniform should be worn by all children in September.

The government has been very clear that attendance is mandatory for all pupils from September. The only exception to this are those who are self-isolating due to either having symptoms themselves or having been in contact with someone with symptoms, or another illness as before.

If your child is unwell at the start of the day, please do not bring them to school. If they exhibit symptoms of Covid -19 please ensure they are tested following guidance and inform us of your concerns. If during the day a child falls ill we will isolate them, with a first aider, in the medical room and contact you to collect them immediately.

Kind regards

Mrs Baldwin