



Monday 19th July 2021



'Dream... Believe... Achieve...'
Headteacher: Mrs Hannah Connor-James

RE: KEY INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to begin this rather long and detailed communication about next academic year with a big thank you. We know that the past 2 school years have been a huge challenge for everyone. We are so grateful for all that you have done to support your children and us, as a school. You have been patient, understanding, caring and, as always, hugely supportive. We are very much hoping that next academic year will be much more straight forward. To try and ensure that we are setting off on the right foot in September, we have attempted to provide you with as much information and clarity as possible regarding what to expect in September when children return to their new classes. We appreciate that it is long, but we urge you to take the time to read and digest these important messages, keeping them handy ahead of returning in September.

Staffing:

As you are aware from our previous communication, we are sad to be bidding farewell to **Miss Latimer, Mr Brown** and **Mr Garnett** at the end of this year.

It is with great sadness that we will also be saying goodbye to **Miss Allen**, our Site Officer and Outdoor Learning Coordinator at the end of this term. Miss Allen has given 18 years to Cromwell in a wide variety of roles and will be missed by all the children who have benefitted from her time and enthusiasm over the years. We want to thank her for all she has done for Cromwell and wish her all the very best in her new venture.

In addition to the new staff we have introduced previously, we are also excited to inform you that we have appointed a specialist music teacher, **Mr Greenwood**, who will be working across all three ACES primary schools to deliver a progressive and engaging music curriculum. Mr Greenwood will be based at Cromwell on Tuesdays from September and will teach all pupils in KS1 and KS2. Mr Greenwood brings with him an array of musical talents which we are sure will enrich and develop our provision and curriculum. We look forward to seeing the further development of our music offer over the coming year.

Covid Update:

School Measures

Following the latest guidance for schools, we plan to **remove year group bubbles** from September 2nd. This means staff and pupils will no longer have to remain within their designated year group spaces and means we have greater flexibility in terms of staffing, timetabling and play times. In addition to this, staff, parents and visitors will **no longer be asked to wear face coverings** whilst on the school site (unless they personally choose to). We will be keeping the one-way system in place as we feel this helps with managing the flow of traffic through the school and reduces congestion at the entrance gates.

Hand sanitising and regular hand washing will still be encouraged throughout the school day and well as ensuring good ventilation throughout the school site.



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COVID Symptoms

From September, children who have Covid symptoms should still remain at home with the rest of the household, get tested and follow the guidance after testing. If children display symptoms in school, we will continue to notify parents/guardians and request that they are taken home and for testing. However, we will no longer be required to send home entire groups of children. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will organise contact tracing and the school will be notified of close contacts by this service.

School Arrangements:

Morning Drop Off: From September, we will be returning to our pre-covid arrangements with regards to the beginning of the day. **The gates and classroom doors will open at 8.40am and remain open until 8:50am.** Class attendance registers will be taken at 8:50am. Entrance to school will be via the usual arrangement. Between these times, you will be able to drop your child straight into class and continue walking through the playground to exit. Classroom doors will close promptly at 8:50 so please ensure your child arrives in time.

If your child(ren) is late for school, you will need to take them round to the office.

Afternoon Pick Up: From September, we will return to our pre-covid arrangements with regards to the end of the day. School gates will be opened at **3:10pm** ready for a **3:15pm** collection. This will be the case for all children in all classes.

Uniform and Appearance: As previously mentioned and in preparation for a return to normality in September, we would like to remind you of the expected school uniform. Whilst logoed school uniform can be purchased from www.orchardclothing.co.uk or www.myclothing.com there is no requirement for your child to wear logoed uniform. However, we ask that you adhere to the following in terms of colour choices. **We believe that a school uniform promotes a sense of community, belonging, pride and respect in the school. Importantly, it also creates peer equality in terms of appearance.**

Children should wear: school/plain **black sweatshirt or cardigan; grey or black skirt, trousers, knee-length shorts or pinafore; blue gingham summer dress; white polo shirt; black or grey tights or white/black/grey socks; sensible plain black shoes/boots** (for the winter) – no trainers, high heels or open toe sandals.

Please note that children with shoulder length (or longer) hair should come to school with their hair tied back with a **simple hairband. Children should not wear large or bright bows or accessories.** If children do wear large bows or accessories, they will be asked to remove these and the class teacher will keep them until the end of the school day when they will be returned to the child. If children with shoulder length hair (or longer) arrive at school without it being tied back, they will be given a hairband to tie their hair back.

We would also like to remind parents/carers and pupils that **we do not allow jewellery other than simple stud earrings and a simple analogue/digital watch** for health and safety reasons. Earrings must be removed for PE, games and swimming lessons so please ensure your child is able to remove these independently. If they are unable to remove them, please ensure they do not come to school wearing earrings on days that they will be engaged in these activities. We are not advised to put tape over earrings for PE.

Additionally, **no makeup or nail varnish should be worn in school.**

Any child who arrives at school wearing jewellery (other than simple studs or a watch) or make up will be reminded of the school uniform expectations and their parent/carer will be notified.



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PE Kit: We have taken the decision to keep our current arrangement of **children wearing their PE kit to school on the day of their PE/Games lesson(s)**. We have found that this arrangement has increased the amount of activity time available and has reduced the amount of lost property in school, as well as helping with cloakroom space. Please be reminded that the expected PE Kit is as follows:

Children should wear: **plain grey or black joggers or shorts**; school/plain **white or house coloured t-shirt** (red, blue, green or yellow); **plain grey or black sweatshirt/hoodie jacket**; **white, black or grey socks** and **sports trainers**.

We thank you for taking the time to read these reminders and very much look forward to having the children back, in the normal routine and (hopefully) moving forward from the last 2 years of disruption.

We'd like to wish all our families a super summer break. Good luck and best wishes to all our leavers and we will see everybody else, keen and ready, in September.

Kind regards

Mrs H Connor-James
Headteacher