

September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

All the staff at Dovecotes hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday and are looking forward to the new term beginning! I am thrilled to be joining the Dovecotes family as headteacher this year and cannot wait to welcome the children back from their summer break and meet their families.

As I'm sure you have heard, the bubble-system for operating schools will no longer be in place from September, although we will still be encouraging stringent hygiene routines as well as ensuring that extra cleaning measures are taking place in school. This letter will aim to answer any further questions you may have regarding return to school arrangements.

Date of Return

Pupils will return to school on Monday 6th September. (Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September are INSET days for staff training purposes.)

Arrival and Departure Times and Locations

Please note that there will no longer be a one-way system in operation. Pupils should go straight to their classes at the start of the school day and not onto playgrounds. Doors will open at 8:45am and will remain open until 8:55am when the school day begins.

Doors to be used are as follows:

Little Doves – Pupils should use the door to the Little Doves Unit across the Early Years Garden, which can be accessed via the blue gate adjacent to the main entrance. Little Doves will need to be collected from the same door at the end of their session. Please note that morning sessions finish at 11:45am; afternoon sessions begin at 12:30pm and finish at 3:30pm.

Nursery – Pupils should use the door to the Nursery classroom, which again can be accessed via the blue gate adjacent to the main entrance. Nursery children will need to be collected from the same door at the end of their session. Please note that morning sessions finish at 11:45am; afternoon sessions begin at 12:30pm and finish at 3:30pm.

Reception – Pupils should use the door on the KS1 playground which was the previous entry point for the Children's Centre. A teacher will be waiting to take them down to their Reception classroom. The KS1 playground can be accessed via the orange gate in the corner of the playground.

KS1 and KS2 – All pupils should access their classrooms at the start of the day via individual classroom doors except for children in Year 1/2 who will be able to use the large gate in the corner, between the caretaker's house and the car park, to access the paved pathway to their cloakroom door where they will be welcomed by Miss Reeves.

All classes will dismiss from their classroom doors at 3:15pm (apart from Little Doves and Nursery). Pupils from Year 5 and 6 are permitted to walk home alone from week 2 of the term, once a consent letter has been returned to staff.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will return to the normal time of 8:00am - 8:45am each day. Bookings are not required and there is no fee in place, although pupils must bring their own money to pay for a breakfast while they are there. Breakfast club will be run by Mrs Hehir and Mr Tuckley in the KS2 hall, and this door can be accessed at the end of the car park opposite the KS2 playground.

After School Clubs

Dove Club will continue to operate and take place in the KS1 hall from 3:15pm - 4:30pm. This is a fee-paying club and children will need to 'book in' by contacting the school office or Miss Booles. Children should be collected from the KS1 hall door, which is the next door along from the Year 2 classroom accessed via the car park.

We are extremely pleased that extra-curricular after school clubs will start again this term. Clubs begin from Week 3 of the Autumn Term, and a letter will follow shortly detailing the clubs available to each class, along with dates and staff members running the clubs. Children must sign up for clubs by returning a consent slip and need to await confirmation of a place via a letter or text to parents. Clubs run from 3:15pm - 4:15pm. Staff members will notify you of the door that pupils will be dismissed from.

PE

PE will now run as it did prior to Lockdown. This means that pupils can now receive PE lessons outdoors or in the hall. It also means that the full range of PE lessons, including dance and gymnastics, can be taught. Swimming for key classes will take place later in the year as a block rather than weekly lessons. (Further information will follow in due course.) PE kits should be brought into school in named kit bags on PE days, or can be left in cloakrooms. PE kits comprise of pumps or trainers, a white t-shirt and navy blue sports shorts (t-shirts detailing the school logo and shorts are available from the office). If the weather is cooler and PE is outdoors, children may wear their school jumpers or cardigans. Children must no longer wear sports clothing to school for the whole day; they must change into PE kit in school. Please note that we will also be allowing the children in Key Stage 2 to access the field (so long as the grass is not muddy) in order to provide them with more access to open space during lunchtimes.

Homework

Homework for KS1 and KS2 will continue as normal, with homework being issued each Friday afternoon to be returned the following Wednesday to allow time for marking. Homework is based around Maths and English tasks that support learning taking place in the classroom. Reading books will be issued as normal and can be changed as often as necessary, as long as a parent signature is recorded in the reading diary. Please note that challenges to accompany reading books will be provided in reading diaries to ensure that children are comprehending what they have read. These can be answered by pupils or recorded by parents in reading diaries. The school library is also being opened up again in the next few weeks, and classes will be offered slots across each half term to choose library books to take home.

Hopefully this has covered most of your immediate questions. If you do have any further questions, the office will be re-opening on Thursday 2nd September and class teachers will be available when welcoming children back to school or dismissing them from their doors.

Best wishes,

Miss T. Challenor

(Headteacher)