Dear parents and carers,

**January 2021 opening - Important Information**

We hope you are all safe and well and all had a wonderful Christmas break together with your families. Times feel a little strange again at the moment and some of you may be feeling anxious about the coming months and your child’s return to school. As you know, Leicestershire has now moved into Tier 4, and the government continue to make it very clear that they wish for all Primary aged children to return to school. We will be open on Tuesday, as planned and we will continue to do everything we can to make sure that it continues to be as safe as possible and following all government guidelines and local authority risk assessments. Due to Tier 4 restrictions, we have made some changes to our policies, protocols and procedures.

**Bubbles**

The children will be continue to be organised in their class ‘bubbles’ in the main. We will also continue to have a EYFS/KS1 bubble and a KS2 bubble for the purpose of playtimes and lunchtimes. Bubbles will not mix at all and classes will always be separate from each other, except in the playground.

**Classrooms and resources**

Children in KS2 will continue to use their own pencil cases. Any art equipment and PE resources will be disinfected between uses to further inhibit the potential risk to others. Your child must not bring a bag into school.

**Reading Books**

Children will still be able to take reading books from school to read. Once they have finished with them they will place them in a box in the classroom (these will be labelled accordingly). The books will then be left for 48 hours before they can be used by another child. The days that books are changed will be communicated by teachers to make this work in the best way possible.

**School Start and Finish times**

In order to keep appropriate social distancing measures around the school grounds, we will continue to use a staggered start and a staggered end to our school day. We are also continuing to ask that, where possible, any adults in the school vicinity, when collecting children are to wear face coverings.

Start and Finish Times

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Classes | Start time | End time |
| 3 and 4 | 8:50 am | 3:05pm |
| 1 and 2 | 9:00 am | 3:15pm |

**Please arrive on time** - If you are late and arrive after 9:00am, you will need to come to the front entrance where Mrs Shaw or Mrs Swain will let your child in.

**Visitors to the school**

We are still unable to allow any visitors into the school building other than contractors or educational professionals we have employed. These must adhere to the measures we have put in place as mentioned in our whole school risk assessment. Parents cannot enter the school building. There will continue to be no music lessons in school at this time. If parents need to visit reception, we ask that they telephone or send an email to office@stathern.leics.sch.uk. If you need to speak to us if you need to speak to your child’s teacher , or Mrs. Lambert please ring and make an appointment and we will be able to do this virtually or over the phone.

**Safe Hygiene**

When children enter their classroom they will continue to sanitise their hands. They will also sanitise their hands when they leave the classroom at playtime, lunchtime and home time. They will always wash their hands thoroughly before they eat. Tissues and lidded bins are in each classroom so that children can ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’. Please encourage this at home.

**Staff safety**

Staff will wear masks and visors around the school, as and when they feel necessary. They will be working with their classes at an appropriate distance and sneeze guards will be brought into each class to allow for pupil/staff discussion.

**If your child is unwell**

We managed to ensure, in the autumn term, that no children passed on COVID, to our knowledge, due to the excellent support of parents and the speed at which we ensured isolation.

Please do not send your child to school if they have a temperature or are unwell or ill in any way at all. This is for the safety of everybody. If your child becomes ill whilst at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. If they display symptoms of COVID they will be isolated until you arrive. You should then make arrangements for them to be tested. School should be informed of the result as soon as possible. A positive result will mean that the bubble the child belongs to will need to isolate for 10 days. The government are keen that everybody continues to respond positively with the track and trace system.

**Before and After School Club**

Now we have moved into Tier 4, and most parents are instructed to ‘Stay at Home’ to work, we are only opening the club to critical workers. As stated above the form to identify these children will be sent out later today. Please consider carefully if your child needs a place at club. This will be reviewed when the tiers are reviewed next week.

**Sports Clubs**

Clubs will be reviewed with the tiers. We will not be having clubs for the first 2 weeks, in the first instance.

**Possible further disruption to schooling**

There is the very real chance that there may be further disruption to schooling over the coming weeks. All schools have been tasked, by the government, with ensuring they have remote learning platform and it is ready to use. Obviously we have already got a system in place that worked well when children have had to isolate, we are using the school website, when we closed Class 1 in the autumn term, we have also added TEAMS in case we have to close again quickly due to further national or local lockdowns. Hopefully this won’t happen but it is important that we are all aware it might. I will be sending out a survey later today about critical workers, this is for information to help us with future planning, should schools be asked to close.

The logistics and planning involved in making these arrangements for all children to return to school at this time, with an ever changing landscape, continues to be difficult, but necessary. I hope you will support us with any changes we have made and we thank you, as always, for the support you have given us so far. It is your kind words of encouragement and support that mean everything to our staff. The staff team cannot wait to see the children and I assure you that whatever happens and wherever this journey takes us, we will always have our whole school community’s very best interest at heart. As ever, if you have any questions about any of the above please contact us.

Take care and stay safe,

Warmest wishes



Mrs Karen Lambert

Head Teacher

 @stathernprimary