

16 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Return to College Update – Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support in helping us ensure that the first phase of our College return was smooth, settled and happy! All Junior School staff who have been involved have commented what a pleasure it has been to see the children so delighted to be back in school. Seeing the children bound in every morning is the absolute highlight of my day. The success of the initial phase, combined with our belief that the return has done a tremendous amount of good in regard to pupil wellbeing has further encouraged us to plan and prepare for the return to school for other Junior School pupils over the course of the final two weeks of term.

We have put a great deal of thought and consideration into whether this would be feasible, whilst not disrupting what is already going so well and we are confident that we can manage the current group in school, with additional year groups concurrently. It is our absolute priority to continue putting all of the measures in place that are working so well, as well as ensuring that these are also implemented for any new returning year groups. I would like to reassure you that it will very much be 'business as normal (our new normal)' for those who have already returned to school.

Pupils in **Years 2 and 4** are invited to return to school from Monday 22 to Thursday 25 June.

Pupils in **Years 3 and 5** are invited to return to school from Monday 29 June to Thursday 2 July.

Their arrival and departure will be via the West Gate in order that there is no clash with the arrangements currently in place for those in school, who will continue to arrive at the East Gate within their allotted window. There will therefore be no change to these arrangements. This will also be the case for collection, which will continue to take place at the same time and using the East Gate.

Timings of hand washing at key transition points and intervals throughout the day have been managed in order that there will be no crossover with children in other year groups or other bubble groups e.g. when Year 1 are washing hands upon arrival, Year 2 pupils will be in an allocated area on the playground. They will only go into the building once Year 1 are settled in their classroom.

We have also worked on a bespoke timetable, which means that we are able to continue to safely accommodate all pupils at lunch and play times within their bubble groups, with staggered timings meaning that we have a much smaller group of pupils using the Refectory at one time at their designated table.

The additional returning year groups will also be located on an entirely different floor to those year groups currently in school. Year 2 and 3 (four days for each year group) will be based on the top floor of the Year 1-3 block and Year 4 and 5 (four days for each year group) will be based on the ground floor of the temporary building.

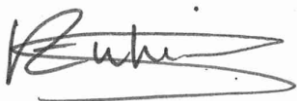
Parents of children with siblings should aim to use the latest arrival time of the siblings, dropping them off at the relevant gate; the East Gate for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and the West Gate for Years 2-5 to avoid multiple drop-offs. However, if you would prefer to drop your children off separately and are able to accommodate different timings, then you are very welcome to do so. If these arrangements cause any difficulty, please get in touch with [jsoffice@sdmmail.org.uk](mailto:jsoffice@sdmmail.org.uk) and we will work with you to organise suitable arrangements.

I would also like to highlight the arrangements for the final day of term, Friday 3 July. I cannot quite believe that this has crept up so quickly, but I would like to give you plenty of warning that we will, as normal, have a slightly earlier finishing time. There will be no change to the drop off time, but please note that following lunch, you will be required to collect your child from the East Gate at the following times:

Friday 3 July	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 6
Collection	1230-1245	1245-1300	1300-1315	1315-1330

I would like to reiterate that this decision has been made with the best interests of pupils in mind and we are confident that the next phase of a Junior School return will work just as smoothly as the initial phase. We thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Whitwood  
**Head of Junior School**