

August 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **Return to school – Wednesday 2 September 2020**

We are delighted to welcome you all back to school this term and hope you all had a wonderful summer break. This letter is just to let you know about the many things we have in place to keep children safe and risks low regarding COVID-19 and to point you to the documents we have to reassure you of safety measures at Loose. Please read this along with the letter sent on 8<sup>th</sup> July so you have a full picture of what returning to school will be like in September. You can find a copy of this here:

<https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=5932&type=pdf>

At Loose, children are grouped in their classes for most of the time but will mix with their year group friends in bubbles too at some points in the day, eg when using toilets, at break, lunch, for assemblies and extended services. Older pupils will sometimes be grouped in a mix of 2 year groups eg Y3 and 5 and Y4 and 6 for these times. We will try to keep the adults in each year group the same for consistency, but of course this is subject to change, for example, if they or a family member becomes ill. We will try to keep children apart but as you will know it is almost impossible for children of any age to keep a safe distance from others. This has been acknowledged by the government, please rest assured we will ensure children frequently wash their hands and that the school building is being kept as clean as possible at Loose.

We are delighted to be able to offer extended services to Y1-6 pupils from 1 September and will look at what we can offer YR pupils once they are in school full time (from 28 September). We are not able to offer any other clubs at this time but will keep this under review.

Please see below (page 3) for drop off and pick up times and gates / zones for your child. It is vital you are prompt for these timings to maintain social distancing and ensure we are all safe. Please also re-read the parent protocols on our letter dated 8 July.

### **Managing risk**

To try to reassure you about coming back to school we have responded to your queries below:

- 1) Cleaners will clean classrooms and communal areas thoroughly each day.
- 2) Staff will model social distancing and actively encourage this between children – however especially with younger children this can be hard at times.
- 3) Staff will get children to wash their hands on entry to school, before and after eating and at end of day and frequently throughout the day.
- 4) Staff will challenge parents if the protocols above are not being followed. Please understand this is to ensure the health and safety of children and staff. We thank you for your cooperation.
- 5) Rooms and equipment will be cleaned thoroughly throughout the day.
- 6) If a suspected case of a child in a classroom - children will be removed as soon as possible and all equipment used by them will be deep cleaned. Parents in that classroom will be informed if there is a suspected case. This includes if a member of staff shows any signs and symptoms.
- 7) Any staff or pupil who has symptoms or members of their family will not be allowed in school for 14 days unless they receive a negative test result. They will not be allowed back in until symptom free and the whole group may be asked not come in to school for a 14 day period. We report to Public Health England and the local authority and follow their guidance in such circumstances.

- 8) We are doing everything we can to maintain social distancing. You can view our current information and risk assessments for returning to school here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=91>
- 9) Playtimes and lunchtimes and any outdoor learning time will be in their class or bubble groups and in allocated zones to ensure the children are kept apart as much as is possible to do so.
- 10) If you have more than one child needing dropping off or picking up at a similar time slot, please use friends to help or be as near to the drop off / pick up time at each gate as possible. You can see that there is actually a 10 minute time slot to do this before the next group of children arrive / leave the site.

**Gates and Timings for September 2020 (NB YR class times are as sent separately last term, these are from wc 28 September when they are in school full-time)**

Start / Finish for EY and KS1 chn	Lancet Lane gate – Brook Playground / YR playground *	Start / Finish for KS2 chn	Main gate	Y4/6 gate
8.30 am / 2.40pm	Sapphire Tanzanite*	8.30-3.00pm	Coral Topaz	Zultanite Ruby
8.40am / 2.50pm	Diamond* Turquoise	8.40-3.10pm	Amber Amethyst	Quartz Onyx
8.50am / 3.00pm	Moonstone* Aquamarine	8.50-3.20pm	Jade Sunstone	Peridot Emerald
9.00am / 3.10pm	Crystal* Opal			
9.10am / 3.20pm	Pearl*			

**YR, Y1 and Y2 classes to enter via Lancet Lane gate** with parent and wait in allocated zone for staff, socially distancing from other children and parents. Children need to stand and wait with their parent at their drop off time.

**Y3 and Y5 bubble - via main gate**

Parents requested to wait outside gate and not enter the school site. Children to enter and walk into school building via lower cloakroom doors.

**Y4 and Y6 bubble – via side gate (by Y4/6)**

Parents requested to wait outside gate and not enter the school site. Children to enter and walk into school building via Y4 classroom doors (Y4) or Study door (Y6).

We apologise for the level of detail in this letter. There is so much information we want to give you and hard work that has gone into ensuring staff, pupils and parents are safe at Loose for our full return to school.

With best wishes

Sarah Holman