

Monday 26th July 2021

**Arrangements for September 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

September represents a unique opportunity to set the school up considering the best things we did before guidance made us change the operation of the school in March 2020, combine these with the things we have learned over the last 16 months and what the school needs to prioritise in September. The DfE do expect us to have a ‘Step up Procedure’ should there be a local spike in Covid-19 cases at any time. This will involve switching to operating the school as we have done this year. This means that whatever we put in place next year has to be able to switch easily to the step up procedure. I will not comment further on Covid-19 protocols until September when we will know what the most up to date guidance is. This newsletter attempts to give reason and rationale alongside the decisions made. It gives you the choice of just looking at the bullet pointed key information and summary table or clicking on a link to our website and then various links to see all of the detail you may wish.

As I am sure you are very used to me saying by now, this is the plan as it stands. If the situation changes over the Summer I will write to you again to explain the changes. I will start by giving you an overview of what has informed the decisions we have made in terms of the day to day running of the school:

**Operational considerations**

**Children need to mix:** Operating in ‘class bubbles’ and limiting who children can interact with has been a difficult restriction for children. We want the children to be able to mix with more children and rediscover a ‘whole schoolness’ as part of children’s experience.

**Behaviour management and helping children succeed:** One thing many schools have discovered is that there have been less accidents and less incidents of lunchtime fall outs under systems where you don’t have large numbers of children all playing across a very large space. We always want to give our children the best chance to succeed so we will be using our various playground spaces to give year groups more space with less children.

**Basing academic catch up on accredited research:** Sir Kevan Collins who was briefly hired as curriculum catch up Tsar by the Government heavily referenced the Education Endowment Fund Teaching Toolkit research which you can see here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/> It represents strategies and approaches which can be used by schools to secure increased pupil progress eg Tutoring etc. The School Development Plan and school budget have been aligned against the identified strategies I believe will be most impactful for Littletown children. I have summarised the approaches we will be using next year in a table you can find further down this newsletter.

**Maximising learning time:** With academic progress an absolute priority, making morning routines and transitions as pacey and economic as possible is crucial. This also impacts on ‘lost learning time’ such as PE changing etc.

**Whole school community:** Children’s engagement and progress is increased when the school operates as a whole school with a range of systems and approaches including regularly welcoming parents in to school to celebrate and be a part of learning.

**Start of day arrangements**

* Gates will be opened at 8:40am
* Senior Leadership Team presence on playground welcoming and accessible to parents from 8:45am
* Children will be parent’s responsibility until 8:50am
* No staggered start
* No one way system in place
* Nursery staff will take children from parents on the playground at 8:50am
* Y3,4,5,6 children can make their way to wait outside entrance doors for classrooms (as they do now)
* Bell rung/whistle blown at 8:50 for lining up for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in six lines on playground with teachers
* Parents exit either gate
* Gates closed at 9am

**End of day arrangements**

* Nursery children will be brought out to parents by staff at 3pm
* Reception finish at 3:10pm down ramp and pass to parents on playground
* Everyone else finishes at 3:15 Year 1 down ramp pass to parents, Year 2 out of white door pass to parents, Years 3,4,5,6 teachers dismiss class out of back door, but walk those going down to the bottom playground round to the playground
* No staggered end
* No one way system in place
* SLT presence on the playground until 3:20pm but no longer supervising children out of gates (all parents will need to be on the playground unless their child is walking home on their own).

**Playtime and Lunchtimes**

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be in year groups to ensure enough space for effective and safe play.

**Wearing P.E kits**

Years 1-6 to continue wearing P.E kits on class P.E days. Teachers will inform you of the specific days at the beginning of the new term. This is after reviewing the trial of this over this half term.

**School Development Plans**

We have made a comprehensive development plan for the school next year which focuses on the three R’s of Reset, Recover and Rebuild. Here is a link to the full detail of the plan in a powerpoint on our website: <https://www.littletown.devon.sch.uk/website/school_development_priorities_2021-22/568397> There are further links embedded in this powerpoint direct to specific resources referenced.

I am more than happy to discuss any of this with parents or answer any questions if you have any. Please get in touch if you do [head@littletown.devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@littletown.devon.sch.uk)

Here is a summary table outlining what we intend to do and what the intended impact is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School Development Priority** | **Intended Impact (including expected additional progress based on research toolkit where appropriate)** | **Notes** |
| Academic tutoring for 180 pupils over the year | Small Group Tuition +4 months progress | Using the National Tutoring Programme with Littletown teachers. |
| Pupil Conferencing weekly with targeted Y5/6 pupils | Increases accountability, aspiration and esteem. +8 months progress | Y5/6 teachers along with Principal and Vice Principal |
| Chromebook per child from Y2 to Y6 for increased immersive use of technology | Impact across the curriculum +4 months progress | Builds on provision in place last 3 years |
| Nursery (Welcomm) and Reception (Speech and Language Link) Speech and Language interventions | Daily intervention programmes for targeted pupils.  Effective early years interventions +5 months progress  Oral language interventions +5 months | Compensating from time lost in early years settings developing social and language skills |
| New Literacy Mastery learning sequences ‘Pathways to Write’ | Will secure increased writing progress through progressively challenging teaching sequences. +5 months progress | Will be similar to current literacy teaching, but with higher focus on developing skills. |
| Mastering Number research project in Key Stage1 (R,1,2) | Increases fluency and number confidence +5 months | National project via Jurassic Maths hub |
| York Assessment of Reading Comprehension | Allows identification of different strands of reading progress so can lead to accelerated progress with targeted pupils +6 months | To work alongside continued use of Lexia so all children who need it receive support with reading progress |
| Focus on Metacognition and self regulation within Growth Mindset | Excellent attitudes to learning and challenge can result in up to +7 months progress | In class and whole school approach through assemblies focus |
| Rebuild parental engagement | Can have a significant impact on achievement up to +3 months progress | Express events, stay and plays, curriculum evenings and moving forwards the October parent consultations in school |

**Other brief bits**

**New Nursery and Reception parents**

You will have already received information prior to this newsletter, giving you details of the beginning of your child’s first Nursery session or first 2 weeks in Reception. Please contact the school office if you have any further questions about these arrangements.

**Gifts thank you**

On behalf of the staff we would like to say a huge thank you to parents for end of year gifts and cards that have been received. Please note however, that there is never any expectation that parents do this.

**Year 6**

Tomorrow we say a fond farewell to our amazing Year 6 children. I know they have had a lovely few days over the last week or so and this has been richly deserved. They have been a credit to Littletown since I first met them when they were in Year 3! I would like to thank them for their contribution to Littletown and wish every single one of them good luck for the future. I’m sure I’ll be needing tissues during the leaver’s assembly tomorrow!

I also know some Year 6 parents are leaving us for the final time after one of several children have gone all the way through the school. This is always sad too, but I thank you for being a part of our school community and wish you all the best as you become part of other school communities!

**And finally,**

I would like to wish you a wonderful Summer and a thank you again for all your ongoing understanding and support this year. I hope the children and you have a well deserved rest and I look forward to seeing those returning and starting school on Tuesday 7th September.

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal