

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: End of Year Letter and information for September**

As we close for the summer holidays I am writing to provide you with further information about our plans for school from **6<sup>th</sup> September**.

As you know, the government announced that we are now in step 4 of the road map out of Covid lockdown. This will mean we will be able to start doing more of the in person activities that we have all been missing so much! However, we will need to remain cautious and will continue to follow government guidelines which as always, may change depending on local outbreaks as directed by Public Health England (PHE). The government has set out a set of guidelines to support us as we come back to school in September and we have followed these in producing a risk assessment. We will be using a variety of measures to ensure children and staff are safe.

**Safety Measures from September**

The government have told schools that it is no longer necessary to keep children in separate 'bubbles' and they no longer advise the wearing of face masks for staff in classrooms or communal areas. However, it is recommended that face masks continue to be worn when in enclosed spaces with people we don't normally mix with. For this reason staff may well choose to wear face masks when meeting with parent/carers and for communal events such as collectives or coffee mornings.

The key priority for all of us is to ensure children have continued high quality in person teaching. We will therefore be deliberately cautious in our approach in September in order to protect us from more disruption. We will be continuing to use the following control measures, which are in line with government guidelines:



**1. Minimise contact with confirmed Covid cases in the community.**

Staff and pupils will be expected to strictly adhere to government guidelines if they are experiencing any of the Coronavirus symptoms. If they have a **high temperature**, a **new continuous cough** or a **loss or change to your sense of taste or smell** they will need book a COVID test and not come to school.



If the symptomatic person gets a negative test result they will be allowed to return to school. If they get a positive test result, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days until the date confirmed by test and trace. Close contacts under the age of 18 or who have had two-vaccine doses **will not** need to isolate but follow the guidance from test and trace. If you are over 18 and have chosen not to get vaccinated you will still be required to isolate if you are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case.

## 2. Strict hand hygiene

From the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic we have all become accustomed to the importance of **handwashing**. At school we are ensuring that children have regular supervised handwashing routines at significant moments in the school day such as on arrival, after going to the toilet, before eating and before leaving school.

## 3. Good ventilation

All classrooms will have windows and doors open in order to ensure there is a good flow of air.

## 4. Enhanced cleaning regime

We have agreed an enhanced cleaning schedule which will ensure all touched surfaces are cleaned thoroughly at the end of every day. This will not only include furniture but all equipment touched by pupils and staff.

## Arrangements for next year

### Drop off and pick up

Please arrive promptly at the allocated drop off and pick up and not early. If you are early, please use this time to take a walk around the block. Equally please collect promptly at your allocated time.

We will **not** resume our soft starts, with parent/carers coming into school with their children, in September while we monitor the Covid situation locally. However, we do hope to reintroduce this valuable part of the school day as soon as it is safe to do so. If parents would like to talk to a class teacher, they will be permitted to come into school when necessary. If you do need to talk about anything in the first instance I encourage you to contact teachers via Class Dojo. Where necessary, a telephone or face to face meeting can be arranged.

We hope to resume Lovely Hat Collectives in person on Friday mornings in the main hall. We will ask that any adults attending these to wear a face mask and socially distance where possible.





These arrangements will be reviewed at the end of September. Clearly if government guidance changes, we may need to pause these live events. We also hope to re-introduce in person coffee mornings on Monday mornings. More details will follow in September.

### Timetable

This timetable includes the location and timings for drop-off and pick-up. It is clearly essential that you are on time for pick-up and drop off.

Class	Drop-Off	Pick Up
Innovators	08:50 – 09:00 - Playground	15:00 Playground small gate
Discoverers	08:50 – 09:00 - Playground	15:15 Glass Doors
Green Adventurers	08:30 – 08:50 - Glass doors	15:15 Playground small gate
Blue Adventurers	08:30 – 08:50 – Glass doors	15:15 Playground large gate
Explorers	08:30 – 08:50 – Playground	15:30 Playground small gate
Pioneers	08:30 – 08:50 – Playground	15:30 Playground large gate

### Attendance

With schools going back to a more normal footing, attendance continues to be **compulsory** from September and it is your legal duty to ensure your child is at school on time every day. The school's normal attendance policy is in place and unauthorised absences including persistent lateness will result in follow up from our Family Liaison Officer and the City Council's Education Welfare Officer. This could result in a fine and even legal action. Please do contact the school if you need any support in ensuring your child starts back at school in September.

### School Uniform and Equipment

Pupils will be expected to wear normal school uniform from September – please see our school website for guidance. We request that children only bring to school limited **necessary** items including: school bag, reading books, packed lunch and coats. Can I remind parents that jewellery, make up and nail varnish are not permitted in school. It states on our website that children should wear black school shoes. This does not include high heels, open-toe sandals, boots or trainers. It would be very helpful for staff if children have velcro shoes when they are unable to tie up their own shoelaces. Children with long hair should have it tied back for health and safety reasons. We want our children to have pride in appearance and be fully ready for learning.

Central Hall, St Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1NF

Principal: Mr Steve Wright

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We would ask that full PE kits are brought in from day 1 including: Light Blue T-Shirt, Black shorts and shoes in a named bag. These should remain in school during the school term.

### **Goodbyes, hellos and congratulations**

As always at the end of a school year, we have some sad farewells and some happy hellos.

Mrs Lartey and Miss Hull are leaving us this year in order to start training to become teachers. We are very confident that they will be fantastic practitioners and we hope that one day they will return. They will be greatly missed.

Mr Rees-Long will be leaving us to return to teaching in a location closer to his new home. He has been a great addition in the short time he has been with us and we wish much joy in his new job.

We are happy to be welcoming some new staff in September:

Miss Rees – Year R Teaching Assistant (TA)  
Mrs Brown- Year 1 TA  
Miss Joyce – Year 2 – Learning Support Assistant (LSA)  
Miss Tyler - Year 4 Teacher  
Mr Simmonds – Year 4 TA  
Mrs Chukarska– Midday Supervisor

We would also like to congratulate Mrs Mkhonto who is stepping into a new role as a LSA next year.

Finally, we would like to say a big congratulations to Miss Hill who is getting married over the summer holidays. She will return to school with a new name – Mrs Wilson!

So here is our staff list for September:

	Principal – Mr Wright    SENDCO – Mrs Bryant
Safeguarding Leads	Mr Wright – Designated Safeguarding Lead; Mrs Woodman and Mrs Rodgers – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Office	Mrs Pakes-Geddes (Finance Manager), Mrs Rodgers (Family Liaison Officer), Mrs Greenslade (School Admin Officer Monday – Wednesday) and Mrs Finking (School Admin Officer Thursday and Friday)

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Midday	Miss McClain, Miss Williams, Miss Rodgers, Mrs Chukarska
Innovators	Mrs Lowry (Class Teacher), Mrs Chart (Class Teacher), Miss Johnston (LSA), Miss Robinson (LSA), Miss Rees (TA)
Discoverers	Mrs Woodman, Mrs Spyridakou (TA), Mr Collins (LSA),
G Adventurers	Mrs Wilson (Teacher), Miss Patience (TA and ELSA), Miss Mkhonto (LSA)
B Advnturers	Mrs Beck (Teacher), Mrs Brown (TA), Miss. Joyce (LSA)
Explorers	Mr Brown (Teacher)
Pioneers	Miss Tyler (Teacher), Mr Simmonds (TA), Mrs Hawes (LSA)

### Building

A number of parents have been asking for updates regarding news on our permanent building. I would like to reassure you that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes and we hope to have some news for you early next term.

### Finally...

I would like to end by thanking all of the school community for really demonstrating our value of generosity and kindness during this season. I would like to particularly thank New Community Church for some of the support they have provided - in particular delivering food parcels and school work packages during lockdown, along with their continued prayers. We are all looking forward to seeing you on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** and we hope you have a fantastic summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Wright

(Principal, Hope Community School Southampton)

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