



2nd September, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a restful holiday. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again on Friday (or Monday for some of our Year R children). We are excited about being able to once again mix at playtimes and returning to a more 'normal' approach to school.

We will still maintain good hygiene and handwashing protocols as well as good ventilation in school as recommended by public health. Please rest assured that the safety of our school community remains a high priority.

To save any uncertainties, we just wanted to clarify a few aspects of the return to school. As guidelines and restrictions for schools have changed, we have updated our risk assessments and systems in place. Our phased recovery plan has enabled us to review and update the protocols that we have in school. We have also written a Covid Management Outbreak Plan which we will use, should there be a rapid rise in community transmission.

Start and Finish Times

We will no longer have staggered starts for different year groups. As you know, the start time for pupils across the whole school is 8.40 to 8.45 am. Please make sure that the children come to school on time as we have so much to fit into our school days.

Children should enter school via the gates in the Infant playground. The Yr R children will then go to their classroom via their outdoor area and own class doors. Year 1 & 2 will go through the playground doors to enter their classrooms.

Please make sure that you say goodbye before the doors to avoid unnecessary crowding. The classroom staff will come out to meet the children for the first few days so that the children see a familiar face. We always have staff in the playground if you need to pass a message on or have a question. Remember we have message books for each class in the office if you need to tell us of a change in adult picking up.

At the end of the day, finish times are 3.00 pm, staff may release children 5 minutes prior to this if parents (and children) are ready. Please make sure that you are on time to pick your child up as it can be upsetting waiting when all the other children have left. Children in Year R and 1 are picked up from their class doors. Year 2 are brought out into the playground.

One Way System

Due to the change in expectations for schools, there will be no one way system in place and the car park gates may be locked for additional road safety. We therefore recommend that you use our pathway from the car park entrance to and from the playground.

Face Coverings

Although the Government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings, we recognise that you may wish to continue to wear them. As a school, we will be asking all parents that come into the school building, including the office, to wear a mask. It is recommended that masks are worn where individuals come into close contact with others. This will be the case for parent assemblies, concerts etc.

It is worth noting that, as part of our contingency plans, we may need to increase protective measures at a later date.

Contact Tracing

Children will not be grouped in bubbles and education settings will no longer undertake contract tracing; instead individuals will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace if they have been in contact with a positive case. They will be asked to take a PCR test.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with Covid 19 and they are fully vaccinated or below the age of 18 years 6 months.

We encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if they are asked to.

Covid-19 – Absences and positive cases

If your child is unwell and is presenting any symptoms of COVID-19 you will need to obtain a PCR test. A lateral flow test is not suitable in this situation. Your child is to remain at home until you have received a negative PCR test result. No other family members will be required to isolate, unless they are presenting symptoms.

If your child receives a positive PCR test result they should isolate. If your child is well enough online learning will be set up via teams / tapestry. Household members including siblings will no longer be required to isolate (as long as they have no COVID-19 symptoms), however it is recommended that close contacts and household members obtain a PCR test.

Please report any COVID-19 absences by telephone or Parentmail in line with all other absence reporting. It is important that you let us know before completion of registers at 9am.

Practical School Uniform

Our school uniform is a practical and active uniform to reflect our use of the outdoors (please see our prospectus on our website or previous communications for more information). We ask for plain unbranded trousers / shorts in order to keep uniform consistent. It is important that the children have appropriate footwear and outdoor coats at all times. The children will play outside in all weathers.

Change of PE Days

We have moved PE days around due to timetabling changes, please continue to wear PE kit, put tape over earrings when your child has PE. Please see the updated days for PE which differ from your Year group information sent previously.

The days are:

Year R – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 1 – Monday and Friday

Year 2 – Tuesday & Wednesday

New Year R Parents - Coffee 9am Friday 3rd Sep or Monday 6th Sep

The FCIS (Friends of Calmore Infant School) are pleased to invite our new parents into the school hall after drop off at 9am on Friday and Monday. This is a really good chance to get to know other parents. We know that this is something we really missed doing last year. Please come in to meet other new parents and our friendly PTA members.

Government Guidance

Please copy and paste this link into your browser for further information:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges)

In the meantime, we are so excited to welcome you to the new school year. We have so much planned for this year as restrictions are lifted, including lots of school trips, special events and visits. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you this year and thank you for your ongoing support.

Sarah Willes
Headteacher

our children  **our future**

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