

### **Back to school arrangements for September**

Dear parents and carers,

We hope the children have been enjoying their summer and time hasn't whizzed by too quickly for them! We're back at that point where we're all preparing for the return to school. Within this letter, I have covered the key changes for the return in September (many of these go back to school-life pre-lockdown).

#### **Thank you**

In July, we were bowled over by the thanks and generosity of our school community. Thank you gifts and cards are never an expectation, but they were certainly very welcomed by us all! Thank you for your kind words and we look forward to a fun, happy and successful school year.

#### **Return date**

Children will return to school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Staff will be in school training on the two days prior to this, so the office will be open for any uniform purchases that you need to make. Dame Janet jumpers and cardigans can only be sourced from the school office, but all other uniform items can be purchased from local supermarkets. We also have a number of second-hand jumpers and cardigans to help keep the cost down.

#### **Drop-off and collection times**

We will return to our pre-lockdown start and finish times:

	<b><u>Drop-off</u></b>	<b><u>Finish</u></b>
Lower school (year R, year 1, year 2)	8.40am-9.00am	3.00pm
Upper School (years 3 – 6)	8.40am-9.00am	3.10pm

We recommend that children arrive as close to 8.40am as possible so they get the chance to engage in their morning activities/tasks.

#### **One-way systems**

Although we will no longer enforce our one-way systems, there are a number of exits that worked well to ease congestion which we will continue with:

- We have always had a problem with congestion when leaving the year 5 and 6 playground, so we will continue to open the car park gate for people to easily leave the school site.
- We will also continue to open the large gates by the Year R area so people can exit via the main entrance at lower school if they are heading towards upper school. For those heading back towards Stirling Way, you will be able to return through the gate in which you entered.
- On the year 3 and 4 playground, we will go back to only using the large gate which opens on to Highfield Road.



If that's all a blur of entrances and exits and road names, then we'll be around on the first day to help you in the right direction! ☺

### **Risk assessment**

In line with Government guidance, and support from our multi-academy trust- TKAT – we have published our new risk assessment; this is available for your viewing on our school website: [www.djpa-tkat.org](http://www.djpa-tkat.org)

From the 16<sup>th</sup> August, the Government announced that children and double vaccinated adults will no longer need to self-isolate if in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. Close contacts will need to take a PCR test and will be able to continue without isolation if a negative result is received. This means that our 'bubble' system no longer needs to be in place. The children adapted fantastically to this way of working, but it impacted their wider school life: assemblies, playing in different areas, use of the ICT suite and music and art rooms. So for us, this is a welcomed announcement so the children can be fully immersed in the wide range of activities and opportunities provided at Dame Janet. Strict cleaning regimes will continue to remain in place.

Those who wish to continue wearing a face covering on the school site will be more than welcome to do so, but it is no longer a requirement to do so. We ask that you continue to maintain distance from others, where possible. Positive results of Covid-19 still need to be shared with the school; an isolation period of 10 days remains in place.

### **PE kit**

We will return to PE kits being kept at school (rather than coming dressed in PE kit on PE days). In order to ensure flexibility in the curriculum and even impromptu extra PE sessions, this decision is important to achieve that.

A gentle reminder that children need a house colour T-shirt (available from the school office) and dark coloured (navy or black) shorts or tracksuit bottoms. A dark coloured (navy or black) jumper can be worn over T-shirts when the weather is colder (no hoodies please). We ask for dark coloured shorts, tracksuit bottoms and jumpers so that PE does not become a competition of who is in the best outfit.

Children will need to bring their PE kit to school on their return on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Class overview**

<b><u>CLASS</u></b>	<b><u>YEAR GROUP</u></b>	<b><u>TEACHER</u></b>
Shorty's Nursery	Nursery	Miss Gardner and Miss Buxton <i>(Miss Gilbert maternity leave)</i>
Scotland	Reception (Year R)	Mrs Furner
Ireland	Reception (Year R)	Mrs Owens
Mexico	Year 1	Mrs Lawrence
China	Year 1	Mrs Balasa
Japan	Year 2	Miss Howard
Canada	Year 2	Miss Storey
Brazil	Year 3	Ms McGrath
Australia	Year 3	Mrs Evans
Madagascar	Year 4	Miss Bole
Greece	Year 4	Miss Collis
India	Year 5	Mrs Nelson
Switzerland	Year 5	Miss Howells and Mrs Mitchell
France	Year 6	Mrs Hutley
New Zealand	Year 6	Miss Stupples

## **Volunteers**

Are you interested in supporting the reading development of children at Dame Janet and have some time that you can spare with us? We'd love to hear from you! We are really keen to build a bank of volunteers who are willing to listen to children read. No experience is necessary because we'll give you all the prompts you need. All we ask is that you are a confident reader, with a calm and gentle manner when working with children. We are often asked about the best routes in to becoming a teaching assistant and although not necessary, volunteering in a primary school will look great on your CV. If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer, then please email [pastoral@dipa-tkat.org](mailto:pastoral@dipa-tkat.org).

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September! Being the end of the week, it means that the children will be able to ease into their new year group with some creative and fun activities while getting to know their new teacher. If you or child is worried about where to go, we will be on hand to direct and reassure you. See you on the 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G. Sherwin

*Head of School*