

Welcome back! (again)

We cannot wait to welcome back all pupils on Monday 8th March. The continued disruption caused in the last 12 months by the closure of schools is hopefully now behind us and we are looking forward to building some positive memories in the final term. School will continue to follow our Pandemic plans, until the Government states it is safe to return to a normal school life, and these changes are all detailed in this leaflet. We have worked really hard to ensure we continue to meet all the guidance and advice from the Government and that our pupils and staff can work in a safe and secure environment whilst the country remains in a National lockdown. We will revisit plans made in January on how to fill the gaps in your child's schooling caused by the closures as well as supporting their well-being and emotional health being a priority. We will make sure that Overfields is as warm, welcoming, stimulating and enjoyable as we can. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, we are only a phone call or email away. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you all.

Mrs Watson



Key Dates for the Spring & Summer Term

Easter holidays are from Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April 2021

Summer term starts on Monday 12th April 2021

Monday 3rd May is a bank holiday

Half term is week beginning Monday 31st May 2021

School finishes for the Summer holidays Friday 16th July 2021



Social distancing and 'bubbles'

In March, our school will be organised into five 'bubbles' of children and staff. These bubbles will minimise the number of contacts each pupil has, reducing the risk of transmission of coronavirus. Within these bubbles, classes will stay separate as much as possible and in the event of a positive case of the virus being found in school, it may only be necessary for a smaller group of children to self-isolate. We will also be maintaining social distancing where possible, although it is recognised that this is difficult with young children and other measures such as regular handwashing will also help keep everyone safe. Please help us by modelling social distancing when entering and leaving the school site.

The bubbles in operation from March will be:

1. Reception and Nursery
2. Year 1 and Year 2
3. Year 3 and Year 4
4. Year 5 and Year 6
5. The Speech and Language Unit

One-way system

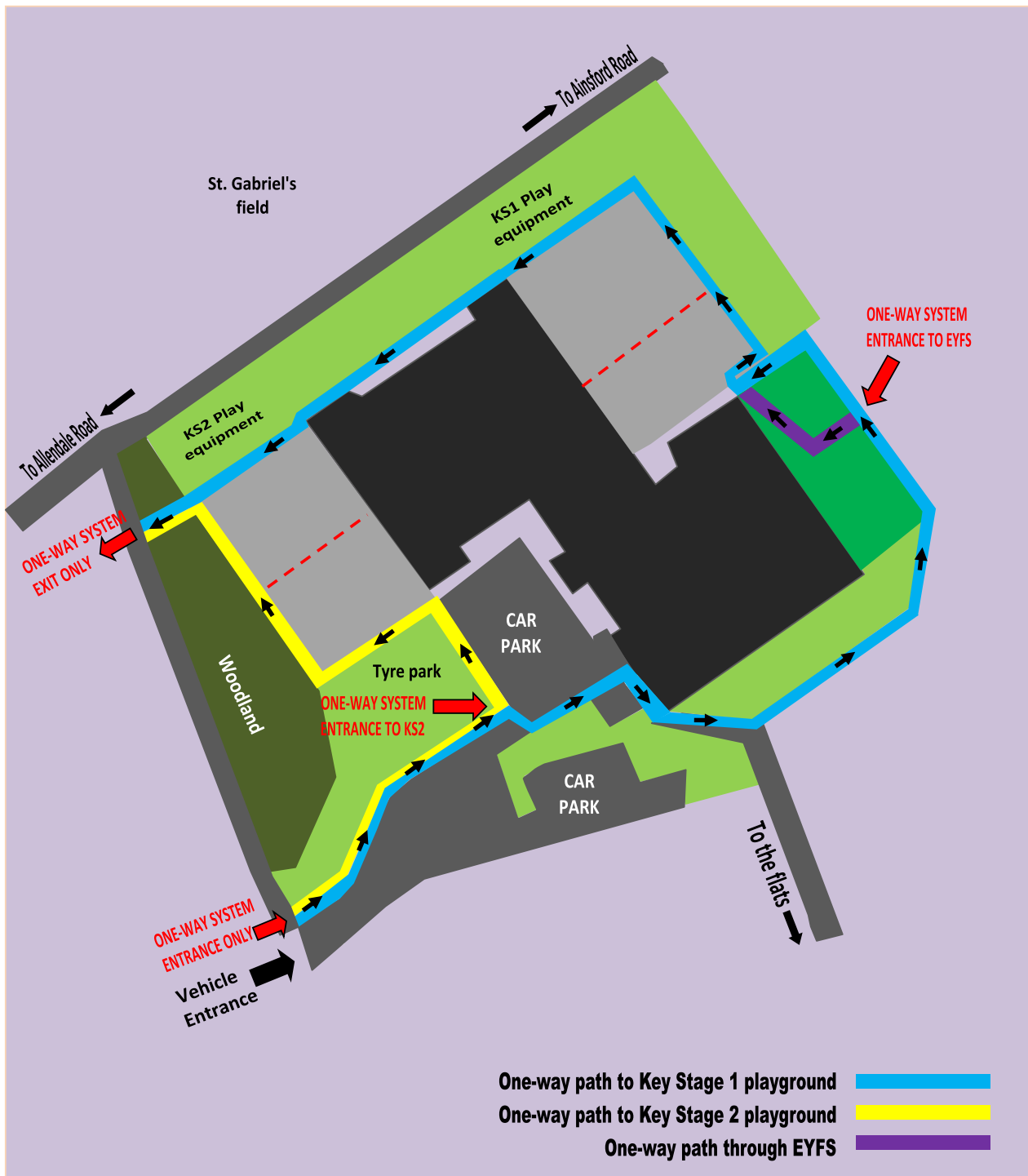
When we return to school, we will again have a one-way system in place for parents and children at drop-off and collection times. We ask parents to please stick to this system and allow for the additional time it will take to access school.

The one-way system will be in operation from 8.15am until 9.15am and from 2.30pm until 3.30pm. The map below shows the one-way system around school.

All parents will have to enter the school site at the main pedestrian gate (near the vehicle barrier)

The EYFS and KS1 playground will only be accessible by walking around the rear of the building behind the Children's Centre and Rosedene Nursery.

The KS2 playground will be accessible through the gate opposite the zebra crossing (nearest to the Year 3/4 classrooms). All parents and pupils can only leave the site through the gate closest to the Year 6 classroom



MAP SHOWING THE ONE-WAY SYSTEM AROUND SCHOOL

Dropping off and collecting children

For parents with siblings in different classes, we have introduced a small stagger between the Reception and KS1 classes and the KS2 classes. Parents should drop-off and collect their youngest siblings first.

Until further notice, we are asking all parents to not let pupils bring bikes or scooters onto our site.

Only pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 will be allowed to walk to and from school unaccompanied. All other children will need to be dropped off and collected by an adult or sibling over 16.

Children are not permitted to wear masks on the school site. If your child wears a mask on the way to school, they will need to remove it at the school gate and you will need to take it home to dispose of. If parents wear masks on the school site, it must not be disposed of in any of our waste bins.



Arrangements for dropping off Children

Morning Nursery

Please use the one-way system and enter the EYFS outdoor area through the wooden gate. Staff will meet you there and welcome your child into Nursery. Parents will then leave through the KS1 playground and the one-way system out of school.

Morning Nursery starts at 8.30am

Afternoon Nursery

Please use the path to the rear of the Children's Centre and enter the EYFS outdoor area through the wooden gate. Staff will meet you there and welcome your child into Nursery. Parents will then leave the way they came, as the one-way system will not be in operation at this time.

Afternoon Nursery starts at 12.30pm

Reception

Please use the one-way system and enter the EYFS outdoor area through the wooden gate. Staff will meet you there and welcome your child into Reception. Parents will then leave through the KS1 playground and the one-way system out of school.

Reception starts at 8.45am

Year 1 & 2

Please use the one-way system to access the KS1 playground. Staff will meet you there and guide you round to the classroom doors where a member of staff will welcome the children into school. Parents should leave through the KS2 playground using the one-way system out of school.

Year 1 and 2 start at 8.45am

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

Please use the one-way system to access the KS2 playground. Staff will meet you there and send the children into the classrooms. Please do not congregate near the entrances into school. Parents should leave through the one-way system out of school via the Y6 gate.

Year 3,4,5 and 6 start at 8.50am



Arrangements for collecting children

Morning Nursery

Please use the path to the rear of the Children's Centre and enter the EYFS outdoor area through the wooden gate. Staff will meet you there and dismiss your child. Parents and children will then leave the way they came as the one-way system will not be in operation at this time.

Morning Nursery finishes at 11.30am

Afternoon Nursery

Please use the one-way system and enter the EYFS outdoor area through the wooden gate. Staff will meet you there and dismiss your child. Parents and children will then leave through the KS1 playground and the one-way system out of school.

Afternoon Nursery finishes at 3.30pm. Parents are able to collect children at 3.00pm if they have older siblings to collect.

Reception

Please use the one-way system and enter the EYFS outdoor area through the wooden gate. Staff will meet you there and dismiss your child. Parents and children will then leave through the KS1 playground and the one-way system out of school.

Reception finishes at 3.00pm

Year 1 and 2

Please use the one-way system to access the KS1 playground and wait on the markings. Year 1 are brought out onto the grassed area in front of the trim trail, near to the story chair. Year 2 are dismissed from the Breakfast Club door. These are the same arrangements as were in place in December. Staff will dismiss the children one at a time when they see you waiting. Parents and children should leave straight away through the KS2 playground and the one-way system out of school.

Year 1 and 2 finish at 3.00pm

Year 3,4,5 and 6

Please use the one-way system to access the KS2 playground and wait on the new markings. Staff will bring the whole class onto the playground and dismiss the children one at a time when they see you waiting. These are the same arrangements as were in place in December. Parents and children should leave through the one-way system out of school via the Y6 gate.

Year 3,4,5 and 6 finish at 3.05pm



The Curriculum

The closures of schools across the country during the past year will have had a significant impact on the progress and attainment of all children. In addition, we are very conscious of the impact it may have had on the mental health and well-being of pupils. When the children return in March we will be focusing on revisiting their basic skills in reading, writing and maths and also on activities to improve their mental health. Staff will assess, plan for and begin to address the gaps in their knowledge as well as getting them used to the routines of being back in school before commencing our Summer year-group topics after the Easter break.



Lunchtimes

School will provide a hot meal for those children who have requested it. Children can bring a packed lunch if desired. Lunchtimes will be staggered across school and children in key stage 2 will eat their lunches in the classroom before going out to play.

Water bottles & snack

Pupils in Key Stage 1 will continue to receive fruit at break time. Children in Key Stage 2 are also encouraged to bring a piece of fruit into school each day. Please do not put this in their packed lunch, but wrap if separately if necessary and children should take this into class. All pupils should bring a water bottle to school each day.



Medical

The school has an action plan for anyone developing signs and symptoms of Coronavirus at school. You can download this plan from the school website or request a copy from the office. All our other medical arrangements remain unchanged apart from the need to social distance when administering medication or first aid. If this is not practical, the school have a supply of PPE to use as an alternative.

We are asking parents to take a precautionary approach to children feeling poorly from March. If your child is not feeling well, particularly if they have a temperature, we would like them to stay at home until recovered. Please contact school as soon as possible if your child is ill.

Books & equipment

We will give children their reading books and reading records on a Monday, starting from March 15th and ask that they are brought back on Friday. Staff will then check their records and change the books and return the reading bags to pupils the following Monday. If reading books are not returned on a Friday, pupils will need to wait until the following Friday to have their books changed.

Please return the exercise book your child has been using during home schooling. It is not necessary to return any other work.



PE kits & Uniform



One part of the curriculum that we will be focussing on will be PE and exercise. We are asking parents to supplement the children's indoor PE kit with jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt or jumper and trainers for outdoor PE sessions.

We understand that uniform fitting may be an issue for some children and with the National lockdown continuing, access to shops is very limited. We therefore will offer some flexibility with uniform and ask that any items worn are plain and appropriate colours.

Children may wish to bring an additional fleece, hoody or jumper which they can wear in the classroom as we need to have doors and windows open to ensure good ventilation

Contacting school

Unfortunately, with the limited arrangements for dropping off and collecting children our teaching staff will not be able to have a prolonged conversation with parents at these times. In order to maintain good communication between parents and staff, we will continue to use the class email address we established during the school closure. If you wish to pass a message to your child's teacher, this will be the most efficient way. We will also be happy to arrange a face to face meeting at a convenient time.

If you wish to visit the school office, please telephone to arrange an appointment (appointments will be available on the same day) before visiting. The main entrance into school will operate a 'one adult' at a time policy. You can also contact the office via email.

The email addresses through which you can contact your child's teacher from September are:

Miss Curtis	nursery@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Mrs Wilson	reception@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Miss Theaker	year1@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Ms Aitchison	year2@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Mrs Slater	year3@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Mrs Guilfoyle & Mrs Spicer	year4@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Miss Bass	year5@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Miss Whitby	year6@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Mrs Henman & Mrs Smart	ks1slu@overfieldsprimary.org.uk
Miss Gowland	ks2slu@overfieldsprimary.org.uk



To contact the school office or Head Teacher or for over the Easter holiday please use:

overfieldsadmin@overfieldsprimary.org.uk or telephone 01642 314548



Updates will also be posted on our website and twitter pages.

<http://overfields.ironstoneacademy.org.uk/>



Thank You!

The last 12 months have been very difficult for parents, staff and in particular, the children. We just wanted to say a huge thank you, once again, for your support during the school closure especially with online learning which has been a quickly learned new skill for all of us.

It will continue to a priority that when all pupils return, we continue to work together to make the organisation of our school more effective. By working together and sticking to the new procedures for drop off and collection we can get the children back to their learning quickly and help them return to the enjoyment and routines of school life. It will be so lovely to have everyone back in school.

