

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a pleasant few weeks and managed to enjoy the sunshine while it lasted!

As anticipated, the government have now confirmed that schools should reopen in the autumn term and we are very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to Gorsey on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The team here have been working hard to ensure that the children enjoy a safe, happy and successful start to the year and to support you as parents we felt now was a good time to provide a few more details on what school will look like from next week:

### School timings

As previously communicated, to limit the number of people on site at any one time (and in accordance with DfE guidance) we will be operating staggered drop-off and pick-up times according to year group as follows:

Year Groups	Drop off	Pick up
Year 6 and Year 2	8.40 – 8.50 am	3.10pm
Year 1*, Year 3 and Year 5	8.50 – 9.00 am	3.20pm
Year 4** and Reception**	9.00 – 9.10 am	3.30pm

*\*Please note the slight change in time for Year 1 pupils to that previously stated*

*\*\*To limit any time waiting on site, if any parents of Year 4 or Reception pupils also have children in Years 6 or 2 they may enter their rooms from 8.50am.*

Please see the attached site map for entry points to the classrooms. We will be continuing with the one way system on site which we had in operation last term with **entrance only via the Altrincham Road pedestrian gate and exit only via the Gorsey Road gate at the rear of the site.**

To minimise any crowding at pick up we will be asking parents of children in some year groups to wait in specific areas at the end of the day. These can be found on the site plans attached to this letter.

Please help us in minimising the time you spend on school site both at drop off and pick up. The latest government guidance states that '*gathering at the school gates and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed*' ('Guidance for full opening of schools, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020)

### **Attendance and punctuality**

The government have set the expectation that all children return to school in the autumn term. A small number of children may still be unable to attend in line with public health advice or because they are self-isolating. We ask you to keep in close communication with the school if either of these reasons apply to your child. Otherwise all usual attendance rules apply in line with school policy.

All pupils should be in school within their allotted entry slot (see above). Pupils who are late must report to the school office and sign in on our inventory system. If your child is going to be absent or late then you must telephone the office by 9.00am on 01625 468040.

### **Safety measures in school**

We will continue to implement what the government refer to as the 'Hierarchy of Controls' (these have been updated as part of reopening guidance released on the 2nd July):

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

### **Additional measures that have been in place since more pupils returned to school in June will also continue and include:**

- A one way system in and out of school and 2m markings on the ground to help everyone socially distance which must be adhered to
- Pupils being required to wash their hands on arrival and at other transition points
- One parent/carer allowed on site to drop off/collect their child from specified entrances and siblings left at home where possible
- Pupils being based mainly in one room and taught by a limited number of staff (exceptions may include mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching in line with the most recent government guidance)

- Minimal interaction between classes / year groups so that any outbreak of the virus can be tracked and traced and those affected can be tested
- Avoiding large gatherings such as assemblies (which will continue to be done virtually)
- Limiting the number of people in the school building who are not Laurus Trust staff
- Desks in classrooms facing the front where possible
- Classrooms stripped back to facilitate additional cleaning
- Each child having their own space and equipment
- Pupils refraining from bringing non-essential personal belongings to or from school (except medication)

### **Face coverings**

You will have no doubt seen the coverage on this subject specifically regarding use in secondary schools. At present the use of face coverings is not recommended in primary schools (and in fact thought to be a potential risk if not worn correctly) so we would ask you not to send your child with one to wear in school. If you have specific concerns on this matter please contact us.

### **Symptoms in school**

Following government advice, if anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

### **If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19**

The school and local health protection team will work together to carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

Please see the document attached at the end of this letter which lays out the appropriate response to the full range of scenarios regarding either yourself, your child or any member of your family showing symptoms or being diagnosed with Covid-19.

You will most likely be aware of the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on individuals of a BAME background - Evidence from the Office for National Statistics shows a greater impact of COVID-19 on Black communities, if you have any specific concerns please contact us to discuss in September.

### **A few additional points...**

**School Office** The school office will remain closed for the time being as an additional safety measure. You are always welcome to contact our admin team on 01625 468040 or at [admin@gorseybank.org.uk](mailto:admin@gorseybank.org.uk) or if it is query specific to Kids Club you are able to contact the team direct at [kidsclub@gorseybank.org.uk](mailto:kidsclub@gorseybank.org.uk)

**Uniform** All pupils are now expected to attend school in full uniform including school PE kits. For the full list of specifications please see our school website.

**Lunches** Pupils are welcome to bring in their own packed lunches as usual (please remember we are a **nut free** school) or to order a school lunch. Over the course of the term, the children will be alternating between eating in their classrooms and the school hall to avoid the mixing of Bubbles in communal areas.

From September the cost of school lunches will increase to £2.50 in order to cover increased operational costs for the School Food Company who provide our meal service.

**Clubs** Over the first half of the Autumn Term we will be limiting clubs to a small number of outdoor providers who are able to operate without mixing the children between year groups. We will keep this offer under review and hope to expand this when safe to do so.

## **Curriculum**

The team are really looking forward to getting back to what they do best and are excited to start the year with their new classes. The first few weeks of term will be hugely important both in settling the children back in to school life and also in establishing any ground that needs to be made up having missed so much time in school this year.

With the latter of these points in mind we will be conducting some assessments with the children over the first few weeks which will allow us to identify the specific needs of all pupils and plan to address these accordingly.

To help us with this we are planning to bring forward our November Parents' Evenings to allow us to discuss further with you the academic implications and also how your child has settled back in to school on a social and emotional level. More details on these meetings (which will be conducted virtually) will follow in the next few weeks.

As a final note, and with this latter point in mind, all our pupils are likely to cope with the return to school in different ways. We will be adapting the curriculum and general approach in school to support this but if you feel your child is likely to really struggle over the first week or two in particular, please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss this further.

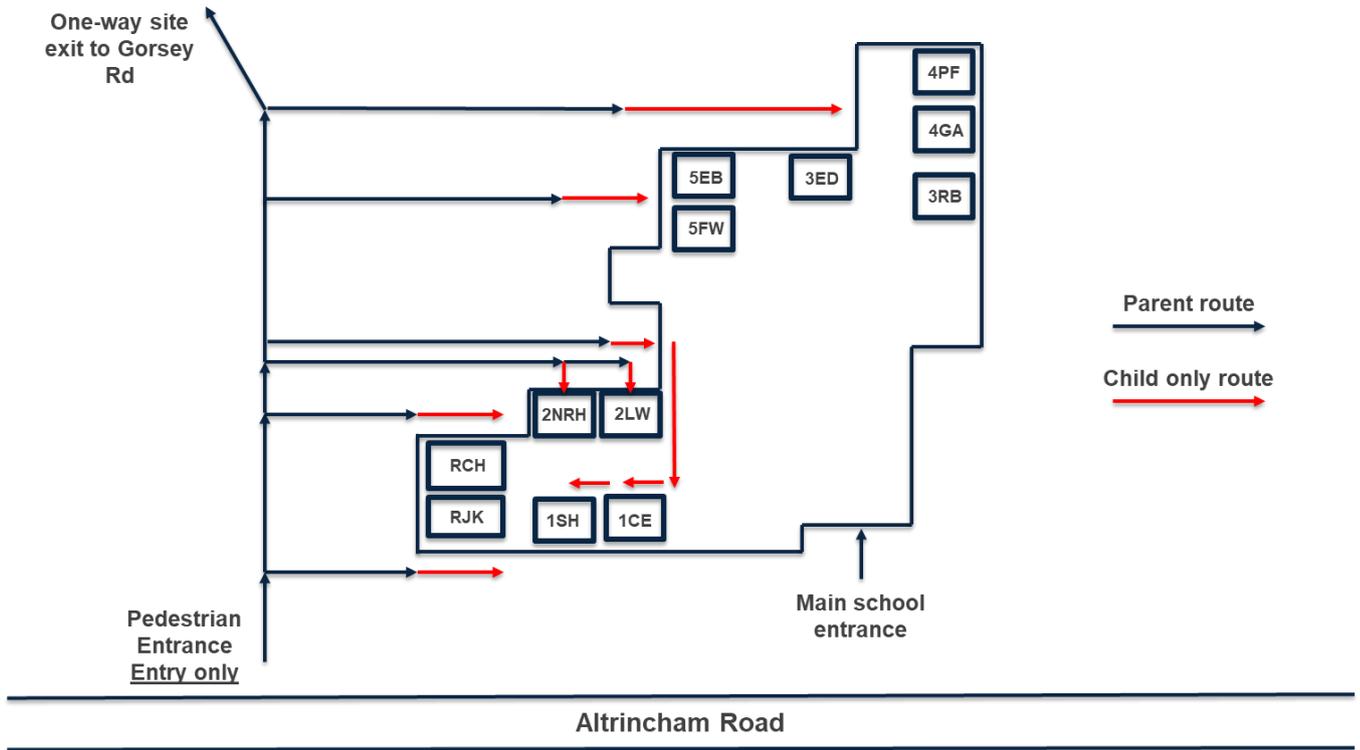
We look forward to welcoming you and your children back next Thursday and in the meantime please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions ahead of the start of term.

Yours sincerely,

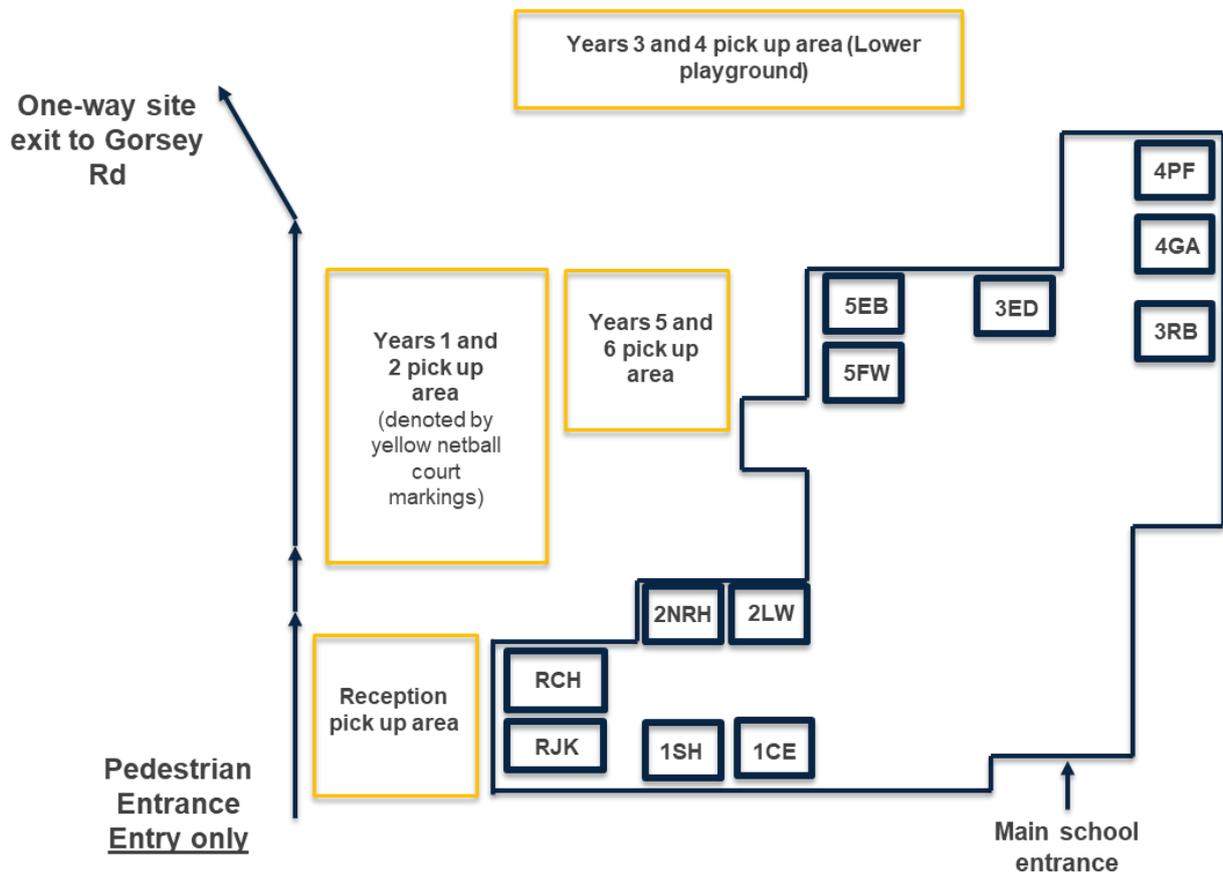
Joe Maguire

Head of School

## Morning drop-off arrangements



## Afternoon pick-up arrangements



### Coronavirus-related absences guide

<i>What to do if...</i>	<i>Action needed</i>	<i>Return to school when...</i>
...my child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate</li> <li>• Get a test</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative.
...my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...they feel better. They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.
...somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate</li> <li>• Household member to get a test</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the household member test is negative.
...somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
... NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
...we/my child travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</b></li> <li>• <b>Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</b></li> <li>• <b>Provide information to school as per attendance policy</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school daily</b></li> <li>• <b>Self-isolate for 14 days</b></li> </ul>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school as required by the pastoral team</b></li> <li>• Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again.