

Friday 3rd September

Dear primary parents,

We are delighted to be welcoming you and your children back to the new school year! We feel optimistic about the year ahead: being able to be in school every day, teaching your children and helping everyone feel safe, well and happy.

Please see below for some important updates.

1. Covid management

We are cautiously returning to a more 'normal' school life.

Whilst the government has decided we no longer need to teach children in bubbles or use face masks and one way systems, we will continue to:

- uphold the highest possible standards of handwashing and hygiene;
- invest in additional cleaning throughout the day;
- ventilate the school as much as possible;
- be mindful when organising large events;
- staff will continue to LFT test twice a week.

If your child exhibits any of the three symptoms of covid (new or continuous cough, a temperature or a loss of smell or taste) you must:

- **keep your child at home**
- **you must book a PCR test [online here](#) for as soon as possible.**
- If a PCR test is positive then they must isolate for ten days BUT school aged siblings and double vaccinated adults DO NOT have to isolate (unless they have symptoms).
- Siblings should therefore still come to school unless they are also showing symptoms.
- If the PCR test is negative, the child should come back to school as soon as they are well enough.

Communication about Covid in the school

The school no longer has responsibility for identifying contacts of positive cases. This means the following:

- If your child has symptoms, you as the parent are responsible for helping NHS Track and Trace to identify any close contacts. If NHS Track and Trace decide that it is appropriate, they may ask the school for assistance in providing contacts, but we cannot provide contact information to parents directly.
- The school will not be informing parents or pupils when a pupil in contact with their child tests positive, this will be done by NHS Track and Trace if they believe your child is a contact.
- If a pupil is identified as a contact by NHS track and trace they will be advised to get a PCR test. They should not be absent from school to take this test and should not isolate while they await taking the test or the result. PCR tests of contacts should be arranged as any other medical appointment, i.e. outside of school hours wherever possible.

2. Arriving in the mornings

We are very pleased to not have to line up on the street in the bubble boxes anymore on YYS.

The gates on both Crompton Street and Park Place Villas open at 8.15 and the doors into the school building open at 8.20. All children must be upstairs in their classrooms by 8.35am.

Year group	Entrance at Crompton Street	Entrance at Park Place Villas
Nursery	Parents can bring nursery children onto school site through Crompton Street entrance from when it opens at 8.15am; you then walk round the side of the main building and into the nursery building. Parents are warmly invited to stay and play together.	This is the main entrance for the Nursery. Parents bring children into the nursery building from 8-8.30am. Parents are warmly invited to stay and play together.
Reception	Gate opens at 8.15am and children go straight down the red steps and into classrooms from 8.20am – parents are warmly invited to stay and play together.	Gate opens at 8.15am, parents walk past the nursery and enter the school building through the door marked 'library' from 8.20am into Reception classrooms - parents are warmly invited to stay and play together.
Year 1 – Year 4	Gate opens at 8.15am and children walk straight down the ramp, round the side of the building and, from 8.20,	Gate opens at 8.15am, children walk through the playground and into the building from 8.20am

	enter through the main doors (Year 1,Year 4) or through the side doors (Year 2, Year 3). Parents are encouraged to leave children at the top gate* so children can walk down independently; staff are stationed throughout the walk to ensure all children get to their classroom easily.	through the main doors (Year 1,Year 4) or through the side doors (Year 2, Year 3). Parents are encouraged to leave children at the top gate so children can walk down independently; staff are stationed throughout the walk to ensure all children get to their classroom easily.
	Please arrive by 8.30am. The gates close at 8.35am.	

*If you are also taking a younger sibling to nursery, you can walk through the school site.

Year group	Entrance point to Junior School on Penfold Street
Year 5 and Year 6	Parents are welcome to drop their children into the Penfold Street playground from 8.10am; children start entering the building from 8.15 and the gate closes at 8.30am.

All children must be in full school uniform from day one including bringing their KSA bag. Please return all reading books we lent you as soon as possible.

3. Magic Breakfast

We are now partnering with Magic Breakfast to provide free buttered bagels to all children every morning between 8.20 and 8.30. These are prepared onsite and children eat them during the soft start to the day in their classrooms. You can read more about the organisation on their [website](#).

4. Picking up your children in the afternoons

In the afternoons, the PPV and CS gates are opened at 3.18 so you can walk down and be in the playground to pick up your children from 3.20.

- Nursery and Reception are to be collected directly from their classrooms from 3.20-3.30pm.
- Year 1 and 2 will be waiting in lines outside the Main Hall from 3.20-3.30pm.
- Year 3 and 4 will be waiting in lines on the Lower Playground from 3.25-3.35pm.

- Children serving a detention will be brought down by a member of SLT at 3.30 and dismissed from the top of the steps in the middle of the playground.

If there is anyone new who you would like to add to your child's safe pick up list, please send their name and photo to parents@Kingsolomonacademy.org

5. Class timetables

If you're not sure what the name of your child's class is this year or the name of their teacher, you can check back to [this letter](#) we sent you at the beginning of July.

Children will all come home with a printed weekly timetable on their first day. This shows which day(s) they should come to school in their PE kit instead of their normal uniform.

The curriculum offer is mainly unchanged. You can see the details on the school website here.

We are investing significantly in improving our **reading** this year. Too many children have fallen behind during the significant disruptions of the last two years so we have hired additional staff and structured the timetable very carefully so all children right up to year 6 can have reading lessons every day in specialist groups. We will talk more to parents at our first home learning workshop about what else we are doing in school to improve children's reading and how we can work together on helping every child love reading at home too.

We are delighted to be running a **Forest School** programme for the first time for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Each class is split into two mixed groups for Forest School: one half will have an hour a week of Forest School in the first half term and the other half will have an extra lesson with their class teacher and then they will swap for the second half term. This pattern will repeat in the Spring and Summer terms too.

Year 4 will begin strings in week 2.

Year 5 and 6 will begin French in week 1.

Year 4 and Year 6* are going swimming this term: year 4 on Fridays and year 6 on Wednesdays. Please ensure your child has an appropriate swimming costume, goggles, swimming cap and towel. You will receive more detailed information next week. *(Year 6 should have gone swimming in Year 4 and then in Year 5 but were cancelled both years due to covid restrictions.)*

6. School lunches

We are so pleased to be returning to eating a hot meal together in the Dining Hall every day. For parents of children in Nursery and in Year 3 and above, please make sure you are paying for your child's meals through parent pay. You can see the menus and find out more about our catering [here](#).

7. Extended Learning

All parents are expected to pay their contribution to their children's trips by Monday 11th October. You can see how much you need to pay on your [parent pay account](#). For more details of why you are being asked to make this contribution, you can read all the details [here](#). The provisional calendar of all six trips, workshops and events across the whole year will also be on the website by the end of week one. We're very excited about all the adventures we're going to be going on.

8. Breakfast Club and After School Club

Signing up for childcare before or after school happened last term. If you would like a place for your child in Breakfast Club from 7.45 on either site OR in After School Club at Younger Years Site until 6pm for any primary age children, please check the website [here](#) for more details and contact Salma on parents@kingsolomonacademy.org

9.Clubs

We are looking forward to being able to offer a small number of clubs again this term. These will begin in week 4 and run for 10 weeks. We will send out more information in next week's newsletter.

10. Dates for your diary

We would really like to start inviting parents back onsite this term after such a long period of time away. We do not feel it is appropriate yet to have all ninety parents in a year group come to a year group event so we are inviting the parents from each class to come to their own little 'Getting To Know You' event. We will be able to meet in a distanced way for an introduction, you can then go and see your children learning in their classroom and finish up with tea, coffee and snacks outdoors. We hope this event will help all parents start to reconnect with us in school and with each other as parents and friends.

	Getting To Know You Morning
6 Leeds	9.15-10.15am Tuesday 14 th September

6 Norwich	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 15 th September
6 Plymouth	9.15-10.15am Thursday 16 th September
5 Goldsmiths	9.15-10.15am Tuesday 21 st September
5 Birmingham	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 22 nd September
5 York	9.15-10.15am Thursday 23 rd September
4 Canterbury	9.15-10.15am Tuesday 14 th September
4 Birmingham	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 15 th September
4 Cape Town	9.15-10.15am Thursday 16 th September
3 Dublin	9.15-10.15am Tuesday 21 st September
3 Hong Kong	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 22 nd September
3 Cardiff	9.15-10.15am Thursday 23 rd September
2 Durham	9.15-10.15am Tuesday 14 th September
2 Swansea	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 15 th September
2 Cumbria	9.15-10.15am Thursday 16 th September
1 Nottingham Trent	9.15-10.15am Tuesday 28 th September
1 Leeds	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 29 th September
1 Greenwich	9.15-10.15am Thursday 30 th September
Reception Surrey	9.15-10.15am Tuesday 5 th October
Reception Sheffield Hallam	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 6 th October
Reception Loughborough	9.15-10.15am Thursday 7 th October
Nursery Sycamore	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 13 th October
Nursery Maple	9.15-10.15am Thursday 14 th October
Nursery Willow	9.15-10.15am Wednesday 20 th October

Parents evenings will be on Monday 11th and Monday 18th October from 2-5pm. Please note that school finishes at 1.30pm on both these days to enable staff to meet with all parents for a review meeting on how your child has settled into this school year, what is working really well and what we would like to work together on to develop. We will let you know closer to the time whether these meetings will be in person or

online but in the meantime, please hold the dates in your calendars – you will only attend a meeting on one day.

11. Coffee morning schedule

We look forward to being able to run coffee morning in person again soon but for the time being it will remain a virtual event. You can see the schedule [here](#). For new parents or those who haven't attended before, do come along! It's a lovely informal space to chat to some other parents and find out about something we think you might be interested in! It's a varied programme: in all-through curriculum weeks, you'll hear from the leaders of that subject; other sessions are led by pastoral leaders or partners we work with like our Educational Psychiatrist or our mental health workers. We look forward to seeing you – and hopefully it won't be long until we can go back to meeting in person!

12. Thank you!

That feels like plenty of info for the time being!

If you've got any questions at all about the start of the new school year please do pop by or call the office or email parents@kingsolomonacademy.org and Salma will direct your query on to the right person.

We can't wait to see you next week!

Beth