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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

## JULY UPDATE

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of this summer term, I would like to thank you for all of the support that you have given the school this academic year. It certainly has been a difficult year for everyone, and I hope that the measures that we have put in place, especially since March, have contributed to your child or children from enjoying school as best they can. The children have been making progress academically, although the restrictions upon teaching have meant that things have inevitably been different.

As a Headteacher my first duty is the safety of all of the people upon our site. I have no idea how the Government guidelines will affect us in September, or where things stand with how we as a country face having to push back against the pandemic. As a school we will remain cautious, but with a keen eye to return to as normal school day or experience as possible. This will of course depend on other factors, as I have mentioned, but I would like to ask you for your continued support as we approach the new term.

### Teaching Arrangements for September

The classes for September will look like this:

Lowry	Reception / Year 1 / Year 2	Mrs Allen & Mrs Gorton
Hepworth	Year 3 / Year 4	Mrs Matthews & Miss Haagen
Hockney	Year 5 / Year 6	Mr Forster

We no longer have a 'Banksy' class. This is simply because our number of Reception children dipped for this year. I have spoken to the County Council, and it would seem that this is part of a national trend.

Our school is the same size, however. If we were to gain more children throughout the academic year, we may need to reorganise our teaching arrangements, and use Banksy for the mornings again.

### Start Times and Finish Times

Since September 2020, we have operated a 'staggered' start and finish times for the pupils.

As of today, I still haven't heard what the 'relaxations' in September will actually look like. I sincerely hope that any such relaxations are irreversible, but I read today that the Government have indicated that some measures may still be in place.

In addition, although having the children start at different times according to their class can pose some problems, we have found that the children have benefited from this approach. We have found that some of the measures that we have in place regarding social distancing have had a positive effect with behaviour, especially at playtime, when we can maximise the space for children to play in.

Many of you have reported to us that parking and road safety at the start and end of the day has been greatly improved with our staggered timings. This is something I am obviously very keen to maintain as we plan ahead.

We have two points of access to the school. Firstly, the main entrance, immediately adjacent to the front end of the school, or the school office, secondly the lower entrance by the two old school houses.

<b>Entrance A</b>	Main Entrance	<i>immediately adjacent to the school office</i>
<b>Entrance B</b>	Lower entrance	<i>next to the two old school houses</i>

We would like you to use the following access points from September

Class	Start Time	Finish Time	Entrance
Lowry	08.50	3.15	A
Hepworth	08.40	3.05	B
Hockney	08.40	3.05	A

If you have one child in Hepworth and one in Hockney, then you should use the entrance for Hepworth (B).

If you have children in different classes, please use the entrance for your younger child. If you have children who have different timings, they will both need to start at the earlier time (08.40) and both will finish at the later time (3.15). This is in order to safeguard losing any more learning time.

### **Punctuality**

I know that things are sometimes hectic in the morning, but in order for the day to start successfully it is very important that your child arrives at school on time. It all counts towards a calm start, whilst being a social event for the children. It is very important that we maximise their learning time too, going forward.

### **PE Kit**

From September the children will need their full school uniform to be worn each day, except for the days that they have PE. On those particular days they may wear their PE kit. This is similar to the current arrangements. Usually the children have PE twice a week.

However, I would like to re-emphasise the need for PE Kit requirements. We wish the PE kit that is worn to be comfortable and practical. We would appreciate if football or basketball kit is not worn, however tempting. One or two of our children have sensory issues and exemptions can be made, after a discussion with your child's class teacher. On the whole though, we wish this PE kit to be applied consistently throughout the school year, and across all the year groups.

Sweatshirts and T-shirts need to be **white** or **light blue**.

Shorts and jogging bottoms should be **navy blue** or **black**

On the days that your child wears their PE kit, their footwear should be **trainers**

### **School Uniform**

On the whole our pupils look very smart in their school uniform. It is therefore a little disappointing when children are sent into school with the wrong uniform, for whatever reason. School uniform can be ordered through a link on our website but also found here:

<https://myclothing.com/ueslink/7507.school>

Please note, PE kit as described above, can also be bought using this link.

### **After School Club**

Thank you for those of you who have submitted a response to the survey regarding the possibility of the school providing some sort of after school provision.

Whilst the response was encouraging, it would be useful if any more parents that were considering after school care could let us know via the link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6QY5a2wjcESfXkogAcZUX15uvbsun89FhHgIpZyFjOIUQUQzTzFTOTBJQVZSU1FQUk1IMzdHV1hUSC4u>

You will be aware that the provision needs enough demand in order to be viable.

I would love to be able to open this provision in September. If the restrictions upon us are relaxed and indeed not looking likely to reversed, then there is a possibility that we may be able to open for identified days per week. This may not be every day of the week. I must stress that some more work needs to take place in order to ascertain our position. I will inform you in due course, and as soon as possible.

### **Mrs Jusic**

Mrs Jusic will be starting her maternity leave imminently. Her last day will be Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Miss Haagen will be teaching the class for the rest of the term.

We will of course miss Mrs Jusic, and wish her all the best as she welcomes the next addition to her family.

### **Teacher Emails**

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of the email addresses that you should be using to communicate with our staff.

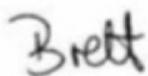
Mrs Allen	<a href="mailto:Mrsallen@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk">Mrsallen@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Mrs Gorton	<a href="mailto:Mrsgorton@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk">Mrsgorton@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Mrs Matthews	<a href="mailto:Mrsmatthews@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk">Mrsmatthews@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Mr Forster	<a href="mailto:Mrforster@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk">Mrforster@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk</a>
Miss Haagen	<a href="mailto:Misshaagen@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk">Misshaagen@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk</a>

**And finally....**

At school we appreciate the disruption that families have had over the last 18 months or so. Many of the staff have had to deal with their own children having their schooling disrupted. I sincerely hope that the measures that are now in place will not have to be changed. However, unfortunately things sometimes **do** have to change, and sometimes with short notice. I know that you will understand that this sort of decision would not be taken lightly. Thankfully this sort of occurrence happens very rarely.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope to catch up with more of you in September, but in the meantime have a lovely summer with your children.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Brett Stevenson  
Headteacher

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021