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# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: [info@cooperscoborn.org.uk](mailto:info@cooperscoborn.org.uk) | Website: [www.cooperscoborn.org.uk](http://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk) |

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Current Year 8 (Year 9 from September 2021) Parents and Carers

I am writing to you at the end of another unusual and difficult year, to express my gratitude to you and your children for all your support over this turbulent period, and to outline the arrangements for the start of next term.

This has been the second academic year in which we have seen disruption to face-to-face education. However, throughout it all your children have dealt with the situation with resilience, good humour and grace, and I thank them for that. They have remained determined to focus on their academic studies, and have continued to participate in sport, music and creative activities. Perhaps most importantly of all, they have supported each other. As a school, we are very aware that many students have found the pandemic and the resulting lockdowns very challenging indeed, and I want to reassure you that we are focused on doing all we can to support every student, both academically and pastorally, so that they can thrive throughout their time at Coopers' Coborn.

I would also like to thank you for everything you have done to support your children, and the school. The partnership that we have with parents and carers is second to none, and this close working relationship has meant that we have been able to work together to support your children, whether they have been in school or learning from home.

We are very hopeful that September will see a return to normality in terms of education. The information below explains how we hope the school will operate in the new academic year. However, we must all be aware that these plans may change, depending on government advice and the progress of pandemic over the summer period.

The school will no longer require students to be in year group 'bubbles' and lessons will no longer be taught in specific year group zones. The school day will also revert to its normal timings, with the exception of Wednesdays, as per below. There is also a slightly earlier end to the day on four days of the week, due to the removal of the ten minute afternoon registration period.



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## Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8.35am	Morning registration
9.00am	Lesson 1
10.00am	Lesson 2
11.00am	Break
11.15am	Lesson 3
12.15pm	Lesson 4
1.15pm	Lunch
2.15pm	Lesson 5
3.15pm	End of the school day

## Wednesday

The day will follow the same pattern as above, with the addition of a Lesson 6, which will run from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

The first few days in September will be slightly different. We will be operating a staggered start to the school year to enable us to set up and run an in-school asymptomatic testing site. As was the case when students returned to school in March, we will be asking students to take two (in March it was three) lateral flow device (LFD) tests in the first week of the new academic year, so that we can quickly identify any asymptomatic cases. A further communication will be sent to you regarding both consent for these LFD tests to take place in school, and the testing schedule. I do encourage as many parents and carers as possible to give their consent for these tests, as identifying asymptomatic cases will help to protect the whole school community.

The start of the new school year for your child will be as follows:

<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Students will attend school briefly to complete their first lateral flow device test. Further information will follow before the start of term. Students will not be required to wear school uniform.
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Students arrive at a slightly later time in full school uniform.  9:35am Assembly in the school Sports Hall  10am-11am (Period 2) Time with Form Tutor  All students will complete normal lessons Periods 3, 4 and 5 finishing at 3:15pm.
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Students arrive at a slightly later time of 10:50am for the start of break.  All students will complete normal lessons Periods 3, 4 and 5 finishing at 3:15pm.
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Normal school day, start 8:35am, finish 4:15pm Students will be withdrawn briefly from their lessons to complete their 2 <sup>nd</sup> lateral flow device test.
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Normal school day, start 8:35am, finish 3:15pm
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Normal school day, start 8:35am, finish 3:15pm



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I would like to encourage you to ensure that, over the summer period, your children continue to complete two LFD tests per week. These can be obtained free of charge from your local pharmacy. Completing these tests is an important part of making sure that the progress of the virus can be tracked and also that we reduce the transmission across the whole of society. Schools are now no longer responsible for 'track and trace' of positive Covid cases, so any positive LFD test should be logged with the NHS, you should isolate, and a confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If you would like further information, the NHS has a wealth of information on their website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I would also like to remind you that, if you are travelling abroad this summer, you should check the latest foreign travel advice. It is particularly important that you are aware of the quarantine rules and also that you avoid travel to countries which are on the 'red list'. Helpful government advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

All that remains is for me to wish you all a safe, happy and healthy summer break. Thank you again for all your support over this academic year, and I look forward to welcoming your child back to school in September.

Yours sincerely

**Ms S Hay**  
**Headteacher**