

St Lawrence's RC Primary School



17 July 2020

Dear parents,

I thought I would take the opportunity to write and update you on what has been happening in school and what plans are in place going forward. Rest assured the safety of yourselves, your families and of course your children have been uppermost in my thoughts and prayers since lockdown. We hope that we will soon be back to some semblance of normality and hope to welcome the children back very soon. Apologies in advance for the length of this letter!

WHERE WE ARE: For some weeks now we have had a number of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back in school. We have been open throughout lockdown, including what was the traditional school holidays, for our Key Worker children and those who have social workers. We have provided home learning in a range of formats and this seems to have been well accessed. Judging by the children who are already back and some online feedback that teachers have received, some have been very active indeed!

HOME LEARNING: Home learning will end of Friday 17 July for the summer. Well done to all families who have been keeping going and many thanks to our staff who have been providing the work. In difficult circumstances I think we have all managed extremely well with this.

RETURN TO SCHOOL: We have cancelled the proposed training day at the start of term as we feel that this is no longer necessary. Therefore, the children will return to school on **Monday 7 September**. Start times will be staggered at ten minute intervals (see below). I have posted a Holiday List on our school website. **Unfortunately, for at least the first two weeks, we are not in a position to offer Breakfast Club or after school clubs.** We hope to re-establish this as soon as possible.

GOING FORWARD: The Secretary of State for Education and indeed the Prime Minister has stated that all children should be back in school by September. **This is absolutely the aim of our school.** However school will be quite different when we come back. A full copy of our Risk Assessment is now on the school website. The guidance is based on maximising safety by two means:

1. Isolating the children in groups or 'bubbles' so that they only have contact with a set number of people. This way, it is also easy to trace contacts should there be any outbreak.
2. Ensuring that hygiene is enhanced. We will make this a key part of the school day and it will form a key part of our curriculum going forward. We have already undertaken work to vastly improve the water pressure and have installed outdoor sinks in both yards.

I have summarised some key details here:

- The children will form individual 'bubbles'. They are as follows:

- Reception and Nursery

- Year 1 and Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6.

- Starting and finish times will be staggered. The length of the school day will be retained. We will review this on a half termly basis. The times below mean the children retain a full school day (e.g. if they start 15 mins early then they will finish 15 mins early).

<u>Classes</u>	<u>Line Up Time</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>
Y6 and Y2	8.35	8.40	3.00
Y5 and Y1	8.45	8.50	3.10
Y4 and Rec	8.55	9.00	3.20
Y3 and Nursery	9.05	9.10	3.30

- Key Stage 2 classes will enter via the gate next to the Year 6 classroom off Spires Lane.
- Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will enter at the Nursery entrance.
- **Please do not send children if they are showing any signs of illness. Please always let the school office know if your child will be absent.**
- Please try to be on time otherwise this will be very disruptive for the children and the groups. Anyone who is late will have to enter through the school office at 9.20.
- Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to welcome parents on to the site. Particularly for younger children starting school, this is not how we like to operate. We hope that this will be possible soon.
- In class, where possible, the guidance states that the children to be sat in rows facing the front. This reduces face to face contact and will help to keep children and adults safe. A lot of teaching will have to be adapted to come from the front.
- The emphasis is on staff keeping a safe distance as opposed to children. We understand that children – especially younger children – will find this difficult (if not impossible) but we will be encouraging children not to touch each other.
- **Should any behaviour place staff or other children at risk, our behaviour policy now takes an even firmer line on this. Places may be withdrawn if children place others at risk.**
- Reading books to be given out on Mondays and collected on Fridays only. Staff will wash hands thoroughly before handling them.
- Singing is not allowed at present though we will be having music lessons.
- There will be no whole school assemblies in hall as this mixes groups. We will try to do this remotely.
- From September we will once again wear school uniform. Remember to wear black shoes. It will be most efficient for parents to order any new uniform via www.totstoteams.com
- PE will take place. Outside Sports to be prioritised. No contact sports are allowed at present.
- No swimming is permitted until the current guidance changes.
- Educational Visits are permitted but only where social distancing can be maintained. No residential visits are allowed yet under the current guidance.

- The children will all have hand sanitising gel on their desks. They will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly.
- Lunches will continue to be served in classrooms. We are not in a position to offer cooked meals for first two weeks and are unable to use the dining hall. Families who do not access free school meals in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will have to provide a packed lunch. All children who access Free School Meals will have a Packed Lunch made for them. All children who access Universal Free School Meals (all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) will have a packed lunch provided for them by school. Free School Meal Vouchers will cease from September.
- Break Times will be staggered so groups do not mix.
- We are awaiting further details on the Governments 'Recovery Programme' and any funding the school may receive. I will update you when this is received and will explain how it will be used.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19? It is vital that families notify school **immediately** if a child or member of their household displays any symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, cough or loss of sense of smell/taste).

If a child displays symptoms at school then parents will be notified. Parents will be asked to request a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/> or order by telephone via NHS 119. The child must self-isolate for 7 days. Other household members will need to isolate for 14 days from the day the symptoms first presented. If a negative test result is confirmed then the child may return to school. **If for any reason, a test is not booked then this will be treated as a safeguarding matter.**

If your child is not able to attend school, the school office **must** be informed as to the reason why. School must be contacted before 9.10 am where possible. We have the answering service to enable messages to be left. Please call 0191 2659881 and select option 1. Please ensure you speak slowly and clearly, stating your child's name, class and reason for absence.

WHAT ABOUT LEARNING THAT HAS BEEN MISSED? We have put together our own 'Recovery Curriculum' and are very excited about it. This is enclosed in your pack. We will assess reading and maths levels when the children return (as we would in any normal September) and will look to identify and then fill any gaps in learning. Much of the 'recovery' will be a continuity of the teaching methods in reading, writing and maths that have been successful for a number of years now.

In the wider curriculum, we will look at skills that have been missed rather than knowledge and content. We won't try to push two topics into half of the time as this will be counter productive and will leave children floundering.

Most importantly, we will consider the children's wellbeing and mental health. We are working on adapting our curriculum further to assess and consider the many difficulties that the children will have experienced in long periods of social isolation. These will include regular opportunities to talk and pray together, whole class THRIVE sessions and increased opportunities to physically exercise among other things. We will focus on Art and Music in the afternoons and will weight our curriculum in this direction during the Autumn Term. We need our children to quickly remember that school is a great place to be.

STAFFING FOR NEXT YEAR: We have taken a view that this will be a year where we should make as few changes as possible given all of the uncertainty that we face. No members of staff have left this year so our staffing is very stable. Next year, our staff will be as follows:

<u>YEAR GROUP / ROLE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>
Year 6	Mr Jeffrey (Full time) Mrs Maxwell (All mornings)	
Year 5	Miss Davidson	Mrs Hamilton
Year 4	Mr Moore	Miss Porter
Year 3	Miss O'Hare	Miss McHugh
Year 2	Mrs Hagon	Mrs Gray
Year 1	Miss Bamber / Mrs Woodley (Job share)	Mrs Rogerson
Reception	Mrs McWeeny	Miss Heide / Miss Charlton (both full time)
Nursery	Mrs B Russell	Mrs M Russell
Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator	Mrs O'Hara	
Key Stage 1 Intervention	Mrs Warwick	
Key Stage 2 Intervention	Miss Charlton	
Key Stage 2 Nurture Group	Mrs Villalobos (based in Y4)	
Behaviour Support	Miss McDonnell	
Pastoral Support	Cath Gibson	
Attendance Officer	Mrs Jordan	
Office Team	Mrs McLaughlin & Mrs Martin	
PE Provision	Mr Stephenson	

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS: We have been delivering Free School Meal Vouchers to parents since lockdown. Most parents are successfully accessing through emails but some are having their vouchers processed in school as the system is rather temperamental. Due to the well publicised and

welcome efforts of Marcus Rashford, the scheme has been extended to cover the summer holidays. It will end after this point. **All vouchers have now been delivered. Please use them.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: I have discussed this with Fr Shaun. We are aiming for them to take place on Saturday 17 October at 9.30 at St. Lawrence's Church. This date still needs to be confirmed and Mrs Hagon will write to the families involved with further details.

GOODBYE YEAR 6: We will of course say goodbye to Year 6 at the end of term who will be joining their new schools. They have been a terrific year group. We wish them all every success in their new schools. We haven't been able to say our goodbyes in the usual way but they have been given plenty to take away with them.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER: On behalf of the staff and Governors, I would like to wish you a safe and happy summer. We hope to see you all in September and hope for a swift return to normality.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P A Brown
Head Teacher