

Christ Church C of E VC Primary School

'To inspire a love of learning for life so that every child can flourish within a supportive Christian community'



Headteacher: Mr. Neil McKellar-Turner

Thursday 27 August 2020

Return to school for all pupils from September

Dear Families,

I hope that you have managed to enjoy the summer break and perhaps start to resume some of the more familiar routines of life as restrictions have been gradually eased.

As stated at the end of term, **our plan remains to enable the return of all pupils, full time, to school from next week.** Numbers of confirmed Covid cases remain extremely low in South Gloucestershire and the latest medical advice from Public Health England and the Government continues to suggest that children are at lower risk of catching coronavirus. However, we know that the planned return to school will also bring a range of emotions, questions and concerns for many of you so I hope that the information contained within this letter will help to alleviate some of the concerns you may have.

The key points of our plan for September are:

- All children will return to school on a full time basis
- Children will need to wear school uniform as usual
- Children in years 2 to 6 will be organised into class hubs and will operate as a class hub at all times
- Children in EYFS and year 1 will be organised into class hubs but will operate, at times, as a year group hub
- Start and finish times, breaks and lunch times will be staggered in order to reduce mixing across the school
- Each hub will have a dedicated playground space for break and lunch times
- Teachers' statutory weekly release time (PPA) will be covered by our Higher Level Teaching Assistants and an external sports coach. These adults will be working across different hubs but risk assessments will be constantly reviewed to ensure that this way of working does not increase the risk of infection
- Hot dinners will resume with a limited menu. Children requiring a hot meal will have their lunches delivered to them either in their classroom or in the hall. Children can bring their own packed lunch
- Breakfast and After School Club will continue. However, as we still have to maintain the key protective measures at these times, especially that of reducing mixing between pupils, we will have to limit the numbers of children we can accept. Please only use this service if essential and urgent.

Logistics

In order to minimise congestion and avoid large gatherings of people, we will be operating a **staggered start and finish time for pupils.** Whilst we appreciate that this may be inconvenient, it is advised that schools do this in order to reduce the amount of people in any one place. We will also continue to use a **one-way system around the school site** in order to ease congestion and reduce any risk to our families. Although it may be an

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inconvenience to have to navigate the one-way route or use a dedicated entry point, we do hope you understand that this is vitally important in helping us to keep the school as low-risk as possible.

- **Years 5 and 6 will be taken into classes at 8.40am and finish at 3.30pm**
- **Years 1 and 2 will be taken into classes at 8.45am and finish at 3.20pm**
- **Years 3 and 4 will be taken into classes at 8.50am and finish at 3.25pm**
- EYFS pupils- please refer to phased attendance timings sent out in July

Please arrive just before your child's allotted start time to avoid unnecessary queuing and congestion near the school gates. Children will be asked to line up on markings at the designated points; we ask that parents do not line up with children but stand at a safe distance on the playground.

Due to the number of children in school, we ask that the following entrances are used:

- Years 5 and 6- Barton entrance (school field)
- EYFS, years 1 and 2- side gate nearest school office
- Years 3 and 4- Barton entrance or side gate nearest school office

We have organised the staggered times to support you as much as possible if you have children in different year groups.

If you have a child in year 5 or 6 and another child in year 3 or 4, you should enter via the Barton entrance and remain at the far edge of the playground until 8.50am.

If you have a child in year 5 or 6 and another child in year 1 or 2, you should enter via the Barton entrance, drop off your eldest child and then follow the one-way system around the site to the KS1 classrooms.

If you have a child on year 1 or 2 and another child in year 3 or 4, you should enter via the side office gate, drop off your youngest child and then follow the one-way system to the KS2 playground.

Children will be sent home from class from the same points at which they entered the school building. **The site can be exited from either the Barton entrance or the green gate nearest the bike sheds.**

We are actively encouraging pupils in year 6 to walk, ride or scoot to school independently. **Please remember that we can only permit one adult per family on site. Please leave the site promptly when dropping off and picking up in order to ensure everyone's safety.**

Minimising risk

As with our partial opening last academic year, the best way for schools to protect their children is by adhering to the protective measures set out by Public Health England. The updated system of measures is:

- 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
- reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school (social distancing; use of class hubs)

By following measures 1 to 3, we will minimise the likelihood of any infection being spread. **All children will be taught about the importance of hand and respiratory hygiene and this will become part of the daily school routine;** children will be expected to wash their hands at key points in the day, for example on arrival and before eating. Every classroom will also have hand sanitiser stations for the children to use in addition to hand washing.

Our cleaning team will continue to follow the latest guidance on effective cleaning and sanitisation so that our site is as safe as possible for our children and staff. There will be increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces such as door handles and staff will have access to anti-bacterial wipes to wipe down table tops and other surfaces or contact points.

Reducing contact

Aside from the points discussed above, the key measure for schools is that of minimising contacts and mixing between pupils. Last year, we organised our pupils into small groups or hubs. This worked extremely well and ensured that children remained in a consistent group which minimised their contact with others. However, the Government has recognised that schools cannot operate effectively using the small group model from the summer term. **We have therefore determined that the majority of year groups will be organised into, and operate as, a class hub.** This means that they will be taught as a class in the same classroom each day and have a dedicated class zone for break and lunch times. Children in EYFS and year 1 will also be organised into class hubs but will sometimes operate as a year group hub. This is important in order for us to be able to provide them with a broad curriculum and necessary learning experiences such as use of the outdoor learning environment. The use of hubs will enable us to be able to effectively track the contacts a child has had should there be a confirmed case of coronavirus.

In addition to organising the children into consistent hubs that will not mix with others, we will continue to discuss the notion of social distancing with all pupils. Markings will indicate where pupils need to line up at the start of the school day and there will be regular reminders about maintaining distance from their peers where possible. However, this will be age and context specific. Children will be based primarily in their class hubs and each year group will have access to their own toilet facilities thus minimising any contact with other year group hubs.

Within the classrooms, resources will continue to be limited and, where possible, each child will have their own set of key equipment. Where resources need to be shared within the class hub, these will be cleaned regularly. Where it is necessary for resources to be shared across hubs (such as PE equipment), these will either be thoroughly cleaned between hubs or be left unused for a duration of time in order to reduce any risk of contamination. Tables in key stage two classes will be arranged so that children sit side by side and face the front of the classroom.

Below is an overview of the other key changes we will need to make to ensure we are implementing the protective measures to the best of our ability.

Organisation

- pupils will be split into class groups to be named **'hubs'**
- class hubs will not mix with other hubs unless they are in EYFS and year 1
- there will be no shared internal spaces; each hub will remain in their classroom unless outside of the building

<p><u>Classroom organisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • desks will be arranged so that pupils face forwards only in KS2 (years 3-6) • desks in EYFS, years 1 and 2 will be arranged in small groups. Where possible, children will remain in the same table group • each pupil will have their own resource pack on their table containing essential, regularly used items such as pencils, whiteboards, rulers etc • any additional resources required during the day will be distributed by the adult and washed at the end of each day • all but essential resources/furnishings have been moved to the outside or put in to storage so as to avoid any unnecessary contact or contamination • toys and resources that cannot be easily cleaned will not be used in school during this time • windows and doors will remain open to maintain ventilation 	<p><u>Entry and Exit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there will be a one-way system in place for collection and drop off. Only 1 parent should accompany their child to school • parents should enter the site through the allocated gate, drop off their child at the appropriate point and then leave via the green gate nearest the bike shed. Signs will be marked on the floor to indicate the one-way system • entry and exit points for class hubs will be clearly labelled. There will be markers on the floor to help avoid congestion and adhere to social distancing.
<p><u>Movement and mixing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • once inside the class hub, the only movement outside of this base, apart from scheduled breaks or outdoor lessons, should be for use of toilets or emergencies only • hubs will be assigned specific toilets/bathrooms • break times will be staggered • the playground will be marked and divided into zones and a rota will be in place for each hub to use these zones • lunch times will be staggered • lunch will be eaten within the classroom hubs- pupils having a school lunch/sandwich will have their lunch brought to them in their hub to reduce movement around the site 	<p><u>Handwashing and hygiene</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all classroom hubs will have a sink for handwashing • in addition, there will be a bottle of hand sanitiser at entry and exit points • regular handwashing will continue to be part of the daily routine within school • promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it, approach to respiratory hygiene

We will continue to ask families to follow government advice in relation to staying at home should anyone in your household have symptoms of coronavirus:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If a child develops symptoms in school, they will be removed from their hub and taken to a safe space away from other children until they can be collected. **You will then need to arrange for your child to have a coronavirus test which can be booked online via the NHS.** Parents must notify the school as soon as the test result is received. Should a child be confirmed as having coronavirus, the rest of their hub will need to be sent home and self-isolate for 14 days. We follow advice from Public Health England and will report any confirmed cases to them.

Curriculum

We are busy planning our curriculum for the next academic year. We want to build a curriculum that enables our young learners to come back to school, **feeling safe and able to discuss their thoughts and feelings.** Although we had already started on our journey of improving our provision, Covid-19 has enabled us to reflect

even more on the purpose of education and the experiences we want our children to have. To help us reconnect as a school community, we will be using **Oliver Jeffer's book 'Here We Are'** as our whole school focus for the first two weeks of next term. This book is superb and will enable our children to engage in a wide range of discussion, reflection and creative responses; he is also one of our new class authors! Alongside this, children will be thinking about the traits, behaviours and dispositions of successful learners as well as revisiting some core skills and knowledge from last year. We will update you with more detail about our curriculum for the autumn in the next few weeks.

Lunches and wrap around care

Our catering team have implemented a reduced hot dinner menu for September; hot lunches will be delivered to the children at their tables either in the classroom or in the hall to minimise contact and contamination. Lunches can be ordered via ParentPay as usual. The new menu is live now.

We will continue to offer Breakfast and After School Club provision as we did throughout the last term. We plan to provide this from Thursday 3rd September. However, during the summer our booking system has been moved from SIMS Agora to ParentPay (in order to make bookings simpler for families); unfortunately, the system is not able to be activated until the office team return to school next week. **We will endeavour to open bookings on Tuesday 1st September.** A text will be sent to confirm that the site is live. As we have to adhere to social distancing and maintain the hub model where possible, **we please ask that you only book this provision where urgently needed and if you have no other alternative for childcare.**

Sending your child to school

The Government has made it clear that they expect all pupils to be able to return to school in September. As the shielding requirements came to an end this month, apart from pupils who are self-isolating due to Covid symptoms, **it is expected that all pupils attend school from Thursday 3rd September.**

If you are in any doubt about your child returning to school, please email the school office to arrange to speak to either myself or Miss Robbins. Further information and support for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding during these difficult times. We are very much looking forward to seeing you and your children next week and getting back to school life albeit with a few alterations!

Best wishes,



Neil McKellar-Turner
Headteacher