



# St Clement & St James CE Primary School

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you have had a good summer break and are all keeping safe and well. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all again and are hoping for a productive and positive year ahead. We know the past few months have been both challenging and worrying but we wanted to ensure you are fully aware of the plans that we have put in place to enable a safe return to school. As always, we appreciate your support with these plans and we'd like to reassure you that we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community. We are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and the local authority and although this guidance is extensive, we have tried our best to provide a clear and succinct summary of what school will be like from September 7th.

## **Do I have to send my child back to school?**

School starts again for children from years 1-6 from Monday September 7th. Attendance at school is once again mandatory and we will be following our normal attendance procedures and policies. Therefore, we expect all children to return to school at the start of the Autumn Term, unless they - or a close contact - develop symptoms or test positive for coronavirus. If your child or anyone in your home develops symptoms please contact school immediately so we can work with you to begin the testing process.

If there are issues around health or anxiety, please get in touch and we will offer support wherever we can.

Recent research highlights the importance for all children to have routine and structure in their daily lives as well as having the opportunity to play and socialise with their friends. The benefits of being at school outweigh any minute risk of a child suffering from Covid 19.

## **What will be put in place to keep my child safe?**

We will continue with the same safety regime that was put in place last term e.g. regular handwashing, one-way system, thorough cleaning, social distancing amongst staff and parents.

## **Protective Bubbles**

We will continue to operate in 'bubbles' from September. The bubbles will be larger this term because we are sharing toilets and other resources. Therefore, children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be in a 'downstairs bubble' and children from Years 2 - 6 will be in an 'upstairs bubble'. To protect these bubbles further, we will be using all gates available for your child to enter and exit the school site.

Please note that parents of children from Nursery/Reception /Year 1-4 can enter the playground areas. Parents of children in Y5/6 are asked to avoid entering the school site to reduce congestion. Parents should not enter the school building without making an appointment.

### **How will the school day work?**

We are aiming to minimise contact between children, parents and staff. Parents will need to drop off and collect their children from different places around the school. In order to reduce congestion, we ask that only one parent drops off and collects their child. Please queue outside school, two metres apart (see markings on the pavement). Where possible, we ask that year 5 and 6 parents do not enter the site and allow their children to either walk home by themselves or meet them at a location somewhere near the school.

We ask that you follow the timetable below for the beginning and end of day and arrive promptly.

### **Beginning of day**

**8:40am - Gates open**

**Early Years Gate** for children in **Nursery, Reception and Year 1**

**Princedale Road Gate:** for children from **Year 2 to Year 6**

**Gate to hall** (closed in the morning)

### **End of day - please arrive promptly**

**3:15pm Early Years gate opens**

3:15pm Nursery children to be collected by parents

3:15pm Reception children to be collected by parents

3:30pm Y1 children to be collected by parents

**3:20pm - Princedale Road Gate opens** - parents may enter the playground to wait for Year 3 and 4 children

**3:25pm - Gate to hall opens**

Children from Y5/6 will leave school by themselves and meet parents at a designated point close by

**3:30pm** Y2 will wait in the hall and leave by the **gate to the hall on Penzance Place**

**3:30pm** Y3/4 children to wait in playground and parents to collect them - leave by **Princedale Gate**

### **How will lunches and breaktimes work?**

#### **Lunch**

Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will have lunch in their classrooms.

Children from Year 2 - 6 will have staggered lunchtimes in the hall.

#### **Breaktime**

Children from Year 2 -6 will have outdoor breaks together.

Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will have an allocated time to access the main playground as well as the side playground which will be exclusively for their use only.

## What happens if there's an outbreak?

A school is said to have a coronavirus outbreak if there are two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or a rise in the number of children off school with suspected Covid-19. If this happens, we will of course inform you and work with our local health protection teams. In some cases, these teams may recommend that a larger number of pupils self-isolate at home as a precaution - for instance, the year group. Where an outbreak in school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched. Testing will first focus on the infected pupil's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary. However, **government advice says** that "whole school closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams".

If a whole class of pupils is unable to attend the school site, we will revert to Google Classrooms for online learning.

## What about breakfast or after-school clubs?

Government guidelines say that children should ideally stay within their year groups or bubbles for wraparound care - but if this can't be done, then schools should use "small, consistent groups" to minimise infection risk. Therefore, we will continue to run breakfast club as usual from 8:00am - 9:00am and will keep children seated in bubbles wherever possible.

Unfortunately, P3 are unable to offer after school provision in September but we will let you know if this changes. However, we will be able to offer some after school provision for children whose parents are keyworkers. Please get in touch with us if you require an after school place and your child is in **Nursery (age 4), Reception or Year 1 only**.

## What can my child bring to school?

Pupils should:

- wear their uniform as normal. However, we will continue to allow children to wear trainers to school during this time.
- PE kits can be brought into school on your child's PE day
- bring only essentials - including lunch boxes, labelled water bottles and reading books. Please note that water bottles should be cleaned and refilled at home on a daily basis.
- No toys or other possessions can be brought into school.
- No personal hand - sanitisers allowed.
- No masks to be brought to school by children

## What will the school do to help me settle my child into school?

During uncertain times communication is always important. If you have any questions or are worried about your child returning to school we are here to help. Please contact us by phone or email if you would like to discuss anything with us (contact details at the bottom of this letter).

We are very aware that some children will have had amazing learning experiences during their time away from school and understand that others will need support with their learning and interactions. Staff's priority will be to ensure they look after children's well-being and happiness as they settle back into school after a long time away for some of them. Teachers will be implementing a 'recovery curriculum' and will be taking time to assess each child's needs and strengths so we can plan appropriately. We will be able to discuss our plans further with you at virtual coffee mornings later in September.

## New Parents and pupils

Welcome to our school community! We understand that starting a new school can be worrying at the best of times but please be assured that we will do everything we can to ensure a smooth and positive transition. If your child is starting in Nursery or Reception, please enter through the gate on Penzance Place where members of the Early Years team will be waiting to greet you and your child. We know how important it is for you and your child to feel safe and secure and we welcome you to stay and play with your child in the outdoor learning environment. There will be lots of interesting activities on offer outside and members of the Early years team will be happy to talk to you about any concerns or queries that you may have. We ask parents not to enter the EYFS building unless it has been agreed with a member of staff.

**If you would like more information regarding our risk assessments please find this on the news page of our website.**

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this challenging time. Once again, thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see you all again and welcome you back to school.



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