

Friday 5th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back from next Monday.

I write to you to set out the arrangements we have made to open fully. These are similar to arrangements made before. We would ask you to do your very best to follow the procedures outlined as they are of the upmost of importance in stopping the spread of the virus, keeping staff, pupils and families safe and contribute to the eradication of the virus.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for working with us over the past few months and engaging so positively with the remote learning which I know has not been easy for you all.

The children will be operating in three 'bubbles' which will be the same as their current class groups with different start and finish times. This is to minimise the numbers of adults that we have on the school site at any one time. If you have children in more than 1 'bubble' then we can arrange the same start and finish times so that you are not waiting around. Please contact the school office or speak to the school office about this. Children from Class 1 will enter via the front door. Class 2 will enter via the Rainbow gates, at the side of the school. A staff member will be there to greet you. Class 3 will enter via their classroom door. Please can we ask that parents do not enter the school buildings without phoning first to arrange an appointment. If you do enter the school building then a mask needs to be worn.

Bubble 1 – Foundation and Year 1

Times 8.30am to 2.45pm

Bubble 2 – Years 2 and 3

Times 8.45am to 3.00pm

Bubble 3 - Years 4/5 & 6

Times 8.50am to 3.15pm

Please can we ask children to bring in the minimal from home. Coats, packed lunches, and their reading book. Children will be issued with a reading book, once it is returned to school it will be out of circulation for 48 hours or 72 hours if it has a plastic cover. Please can we ask that toys and personal belongings are not brought in from home. Scooters and footballs will not be permitted now that we have more children back. PE with Coach Ben will resume on a Thursday for all year groups. Children can come to school on a Thursday already dressed in their PE kit.

During the school day pupils will remain in their classroom areas. They will not be permitted to walk around the school. Staff will remain as much as possible within their bubble. Meals will be eaten in their classroom. Whole school gatherings such as assemblies will be in the classrooms via zoom. Classrooms have walkie-talkies so that staff can contact the office or other classrooms to minimise staff walking around the building. Hand washing will be encouraged throughout the school day. Please can you work with your child on this so that they understand how to wash their hands properly. Face coverings will not be encouraged to be worn in school by children. If your child has come to school wearing a face covering then they will need a plastic bag (e.g. if they come by bus) to put it in when they remove it and will need to wash their hands following removal of the face covering.

Children will need to return to school in full school uniform. If it is a warm day then please can they come to school with sunscreen already applied as staff will not be able to do this for them. Please can they also have a coat in school for rainy weather. We are very lucky with how much outdoor space we have and would like to be able to work and play outside as much as possible.

Please can we ask that you leave the school grounds as soon as you have dropped your children. Please do not stay on site to chat to other parents. We would recommend that you continue to stay 2M apart from other families as much as possible. We ask that only one parent drops and picks up the children to minimise the number of adults coming onto the site. Please can you not sit at the benches at the front of the school whilst you wait for your child.

School clubs will hopefully resume in the Summer Term. The only club running this term will be the Thursday Sport's Club with coach Ben for Foundation- Year 3. There is a small charge for this club payable to Saints Southwest directly. This club will operate outside unless there is very bad weather.

The following infection protection measures are being implemented in school to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible and form part of our very detailed risk assessment arrangements:

- pupils will be reminded about good hand hygiene and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will be reinforced
- pupils will be reminded to wash their hands regularly throughout the day
- hand sanitiser is available in every classroom and at the front entrance to the school
- frequently touched surfaces will be regularly and routinely cleaned by staff
- windows and doors will be opened throughout the school day to encourage good ventilation
- pupils in each bubble will use specific toilets, allocated to their class
- break times- children will only be allowed to play with children in their bubble.
- staff are carrying out twice weekly lateral flow tests

According to current government guidance, pupils in Early Years and Primary settings are not required to wear face masks.

The government are introducing the availability of lateral flow tests for parents and the latest information regarding this, is available on this link

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/coronavirus-testing-in-devon/>

Please feel free to contact your class teacher or the school office with any queries or concerns. It is perfectly normal, after several months away from school, that your child may feel anxious about returning to school. We are here to ensure that we make the transition back in as easy as possible for them.

We very much look forward to having your children back.

Kind regards

Liz Hamilton