



St Andrews CE Primary School has sent you a message

Parent Message

Hi Parents....here is the first of three emails to confirm the arrangements for our return to school in September. We have split the information into a number of emails in order to help parents digest all the important information

Much of this information is based on the 'draft' arrangements as seen on the website but with a number of additions and amendments.

Tomorrow's email will confirm the drop off and pick up arrangements. The parent consultation period (optional) closed yesterday with only 4 parents passing on any comments. I feel this shows that everyone understands the difficulties schools face. I also feel it shows the tremendous support and determination for us all to stick together and try whatever is needed to keep our children, staff and parents safe.

Thank You.

Your encouragement and understanding of the difficult situation having over 600 pupils return to school... and to be kept safe... is really appreciated.

Consultation Comments :-

One parent asked: - can we keep the same system as before the Summer Break?

My response: -

1. We cannot justify a regular Friday school closure for deep cleaning.
2. We now have 500 extra pupils crossing our threshold... therefore the logistics are more complicated.
3. Having all children going through the Small Playground gates would cause safety problems.

Another asked - can children enter by alphabetical order?

My response:-

1. A possibility, but children with surnames beginning with letters later in the alphabet could be seen as being disadvantaged as they could miss 25/40 mins of 'catch up' intervention groups - as we aim to start immediately.

2 Staff could have 3 or 4 kids arriving then be waiting the 25/40 minutes for the others to arrive - hardly a recipe for rigorous 'catch up' and creating a 'welcome back 'bonding team spirit.

3. Children coming in together will hopefully help raise spirits, self-esteem and confidence amongst children's peers in their 'bubble'.

Another outlined the difficulties - which we fully appreciate - of a parent who has more than one child - possibly having to wait up to 25/40 mins + what if they have walked to school and have to wait in poor weather? +. We also fully understand that work commitments may be effected by staggered entry/exit times. Tomorrow's email will also include a 'Letter to Employers' to support parents

My response: -

Our 'draft' arrangements are for the first 5 days before we review and 'tweak'... it is important that the first few days back give everyone a chance to see the new arrangements, - which doors to go through, which gates, hand cleaning regulations, social distancing etc. Then, if all goes smoothly we can possibly consider if there is a better system - especially regarding the issue of siblings. No promises, but we will review after the first few days.

—————0000000—————

Returning to School Following COVID-19 (September 2020) - much of this information appeared in 'draft' form on our website.

Details are now confirmed:-

Also, on reading this information of arrangements for September please keep in mind that although changes are obviously in place from our 'normal' school arrangements, this is so necessary due to the size of our school and we must guard against large gatherings like we always have on our Small Playground at the beginning and end of the school day. Hence our decision, recommended by Government, to try and keep Year Groups apart and has staggered times on entry/exit.

However, the staff have worked really hard (and are continuing to do so during the Summer break) to make all classrooms warm and welcoming. We have also prioritised 'extra' daily cleaning time.

So, from September, we need to ensure that we continue with the measures that we have put in place to **reduce the risk of infection as much as possible**.

These will include:

- have staggered start and finish time
- Use different gates for entry/exit
- encourage social distancing, especially among adults in school
- work / play in pupil 'bubbles' although these can be larger in number and across a Year Group
- use the 'one-way' system around the school site to reduce congestion and aid flow of pedestrian traffic
- use vigilant and robust cleaning and hygiene routines
- Continue to emphasise the importance of good pupil hygiene...hand cleaning, 'catch it, bin it, kill it'

*encourage parents not to wait around or 'linger' on the playgrounds.

* have daily thorough cleaning with a deeper clean Friday afternoons - after pupils have exited.

This message is designed to give families as much information as possible for September 2020 but all information is **subject to change** dependent on the following factors:

- updates to Government advice to schools.
- updates to local Public Health Protection advice

This guidance is likely to be in place until 31st December 2020 although weekly reviews may prompt changes at any given time - but parents will be notified immediately.

Attendance

From September 2020, normal expectations for school attendance apply.

We understand that some of you may be feeling anxious and rather worried about this...we are posting daily information on our Twitter to help with the 'Countdown to September'

We want you to feel confident that school is following Government advice and that the risk of COVID-19 infection in schools is low.

Children with medical or other needs will already have an Individual Plan in place in school. If you feel that your child's plan needs updating then please contact School (by email to admin or Mr Huckstep) to arrange for this to be done prior to your child returning to school.

Similarly, some children will have Risk Assessments in place. If we feel that any of these need additional consideration or support to return to school then you will be contacted by your child's class teacher / phase leader about this.

Uniform

**We return to full uniform - school will be open on Monday/Tuesday (7th/8th September) 9.15-12.00 to collect uniform. Only cash or cheque - not card.
Thank you**

Also, strict social distancing at all times.

Thank You.

How the School will be Different from Pre-Lockdown

We will be :

- encouraging children at all times to distance themselves from adults wherever possible
- engaging in frequent and regular hand sanitising/washing
- grouping children in Year Group 'bubbles' :- Early Years bubbles A and B include Nursery('A'), and Reception ('B'). Other bubbles will be named after their Year Group + class name to differentiate between bubbles e/g. Y1=Bubble 'Swallows'1, Y2= Bubble2 'Nightingales 'and so on.

There may be occasions when Year Group class bubbles may come together - (E.g. for a Year Group talk or assembly) but still keeping the social distancing between each bubble - always making sure that children do not mix closely with children from other bubbles

- striving to maintain 2m distancing between all adults
- having all pupil desks in Years 1 - 6 facing forward in class
- minimising the sharing of equipment wherever possible and maintaining rigorous cleaning of shared equipment
- accessing other areas of the school as needed (for example the playgrounds, halls and library) on a rota basis to avoid mixing bubbles
- ensuring differing start and finish times/locations for each Year Group bubble

* nothing brought from home other than essentials eg packed lunch,booked bags.

- providing a full menu of hot and cold packed lunches

*Lunch will be taken in the children's classroom. Playtime at lunch has to be staggered .- although lunchtime is shortened, the amount of 'play 'a child has during the day should not be reduced

* Indoor shoes will not be required for the first half term. (Again, to reduce hold ups and the possibility of bottle necks forming in classrooms etc.)

* Children /parents will be given designated days for PE - children are required to come to school in their PE kit on those days (rather than change at school) - please note that the Government Guidelines suggest that PE should be mainly outside (so wrap up!!!)

- returning to all children wearing school uniform

*All children are required to bring their hand sanitizer- properly labelled with child's name

- ensuring that there are no physical large or whole school groupings (no larger than a Year Group)
- following the robust Risk Assessments that we have put in place to mitigate the risks related to COVID-19
- A greater emphasis than ever before of the importance of our Parent/School partnership in understanding the difficulties of the present circumstances and encouraging families to work on their children's basic skills and Summer homework. Being ready for September will help raise confidence and children's self-esteem.

Thank You.

Regards,Graham Huckstep