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26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## A message from Mrs. Denham

Dear parents and carers

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. We are ready to welcome all our children back to school at last and are feeling very excited at the prospect of getting back to some sense of normality on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. We are really looking forward to seeing all the children together again.

In opening school, we have three main priorities:

The safety of our children and staff by ensuring that we follow health and safety guidance through assessing risks and putting in place control measures

The mental health and wellbeing of children and the school community in the transition back to school

Ensuring that all children receive a high-quality education that enables them to thrive and progress in all areas

Staff have been working very hard to provide a safe, welcoming and happy school for your children. We are very grateful to you all for working so closely with us and for all your kind words and support. I want to now update you on some key school procedures which will be very similar to those implemented in the Autumn term.

All children in Rec to Y6 are expected to return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The risk assessment will be reviewed and regularly updated to mitigate risks of the transmission of the virus and will be placed on our school website.

I am writing to remind you about the arrangements for the beginning of the new academic year. All children from Reception to Y6 are expected to return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The risk assessment will be reviewed and regularly updated to mitigate risks of the transmission of the virus and will be placed on our school website for the start of the new term.

**The information below summarises the main points in the risk assessment. We hope you find this information useful:**

### **When will the children start back at school?**

Children in Years 3 to 6 will start back at school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 8.45am and finishing at 3.15pm.

Children in Rec to Y2 will start back at school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 9.00am and finishing at 3.00/ or 3.15pm. If a pupil in this age group has a sibling starting at 8.45am, they may start at the same time too.

### **Do they need to wear uniform?**

- Yes, we expect all children to wear full uniform if possible.

### **What can be brought from home?**

- Children may bring a small bag to school however, they are not allowed to bring unnecessary items from home. They must only bring a named water bottle, healthy snack, sun cream, sunhat and packed lunch if required

### **What measures are in place to reduce mass gatherings of parents and children at the start and end of school?**

- When children arrive in school they will be asked to sanitise their hands and go to their classrooms. They will hang their belongings up in an allocated space in the cloakroom and they will be asked one by one to wash their hands

- Please can we ask parents NOT to congregate on or around the school site before or after school.
- All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus.
- It is essential that all children arrive and leave at their designated start or finish time.
- If parents in Key Stage two want children to walk home alone, please inform the school office of this information
- Please can we ask parents NOT to congregate on or around the school site before or after school. Please leave a clear wide path for children to walk through.
- All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus.
- **Can all adults please wear a face mask whilst dropping off and picking up their children**
- When waiting to collect children, parents and other adults must keep any other children close to them and please do not allow them to move away from the adult.
- Please do not send children to school too early as this could potentially lead to unsupervised contact between pupils.
- No parent to enter the school ground if possible
- **The school office will be closed to parents on the whole – so please phone or e mail.**
- **Thank you for your support with this.**

#### **What hygiene measures are in place? What are you doing to keep the school clean?**

- We have hygiene boxes in each classroom, including cleaning products and equipment. Surfaces are cleaned regularly and all equipment is cleaned in between use.
- Children are expected to wash their hands/ sanitise multiple times throughout the day; members of staff will be available to support and supervise handwashing where it is appropriate, and we have visual reminders in all the toilets and sink areas about good handwashing.
- We have plenty of tissues and remind children about good hygiene.

#### **How will you make sure children are socially distant with each other?**

- Children have been organised into class groups that will stay with each other for most of their time in school.
- Playtimes will be staggered so that fewer children are outside on the playgrounds with each class having their own designated area to play within. This way, the classes will not routinely mix with each other. They will have their own play equipment in their zone.
- Children will not move around the site as much as they used to however, when they do, they will be encouraged to social distance
- We recognise that social distancing with the younger children is a challenge so we will remind them regularly about it, but we cannot guarantee that it can be maintained with the younger children. The government guidance states that schools do not need to insist on social distancing with the younger children. We want our children to learn through play and interaction with others.

#### **How will staff social distance?**

- Staff will continue to maintain 1m+ social distancing wherever possible. Our staffroom will not be used for staff to congregate and our school office is out of bounds to all if possible.
- We ask that parents do not come into the school building to maintain good social distancing, however we are still available to talk to parents either over the phone or through email.
- Staff will be wearing face masks in communal areas and in some cases in the classroom

#### **What will the classrooms look like?**

- The classrooms do look a bit sparser than they usually do, this is so that the surfaces are easily cleaned.
- In Years 3 to 6, most desks have been arranged into front facing rows.
- Teachers are planning learning activities that reduce the need for close face to face interaction.
- Adults will give feedback to the children at the adults' level rather than the adult moving to the child's level.

- In Reception, we will allow a more 'free flow' approach to the provision so that the children can learn through play. They will be allowed to sit on the carpet in small groups but will be expected to distance themselves as much as possible.

**What equipment will be available to the children? What will they need to bring from home?**

- All children will be given their own pencil case with their own equipment because they are not allowed to share equipment such as pens and pencils.
- Any equipment that does need to be shared will be cleaned thoroughly in between uses.
- Children will be expected to bring a named water bottle to school. This will stay on their desk to reduce movement around the classroom.
- Reading books will be sent home. They will be cleaned after they have been returned and will only be permitted to go back onto bookshelves after 72 hours.

**Do the normal rules and expectations still apply?**

- Absolutely! We always have very high expectations for behaviour and attitude.

**How will you make sure the children settle into their new class and teachers? How are you going to support their wellbeing after such a difficult time?**

- The activities for the first week will be planned to support the transition for everyone. We understand lots of our children will not have been in school, so the teachers are planning to take their time to make sure the children can settle in. The children will revisit our school motto, values and expectations including our Building Learning Powers.
- The whole school will support the wellbeing and mental health of all our pupils.

**Although we will be making school as normal as we can, there will be number of things that are different, and this is to keep everyone as safe as we can. This includes:**

- No large gatherings will take place such as assemblies in the hall – we will have these in classes instead
- Parents will not be allowed on site so communications will need to be made via the office through email or phone

**What will happen at lunchtime?**

- A slightly restricted lunch menu will initially be available
- Hot lunches will be served to the children and they will eat with the rest of the children in their pod.
- We do encourage all children to have a school meal because they are fresh, well balanced with locally produced ingredients
- As normal, lunches will be booked in advance.
- Children can bring a packed lunch; please can you ensure the lunch box is cleaned thoroughly every day.

**What happens if a child gets ill in my child's group?**

- No child or adult showing signs of infection are allowed on the premises.
- Staff and pupils are required to have immediate tests if they show symptoms. If a child is sent home with symptoms, we ask parents arrange a test for the child.
- Any child who displays any symptoms of COVID must be collected immediately. When the child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to our isolation room.
- The adult supervising the child will wear full PPE clothing when dealing with a suspected case; this includes a face mask, face shield/ visor, apron and gloves.

**What if my child, or one of our family members, becomes ill?**

- If any child in school tests positive for COVID, every child and member of staff in their group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If a member of a child's household tests positive for COVID, the child and the household members must self-isolate for 14 days. The other children and staff in the child's group do not have to self-isolate.

Everyone's health and safety is our priority and we hope that, by reading this document, all parents and families are reassured that the school staff are taking every possible measure to create a happy, healthy and safe learning environment for all our community.

School will now seem a slightly different place in terms of its organisation, but our standards and our drive for learning will still be there. Our children need support, stability and routine. We expect there will be some pupils who will be nervous and anxious about returning to school after such a prolonged absence from the physical school site. For some, the anxiety may extend beyond the normal fears about returning to school and starting a new school year. All staff will be spending the first few weeks establishing the 'new normal' for children so that they feel secure and confident to be back at school.

We very much look forward to seeing you all on Monday March 8th. If you have any worries or concerns, please contact school and we will do everything we can to support you.

With very best wishes

Susan Denham

We were thrilled on Friday, the 19th of March to welcome the CEO and staff from Openreach as well as our local MP Selaine Saxby to the opening of a fantastic superfast fibre broadband. This is all now up and working in the school and is already making a huge difference in our daily school lives. We were completely overwhelmed by the generosity of Openreach who set up a funding page purely for the school and over 240 Openreach employees donated their own money to a total of £6300. We cannot believe the generosity and thank them so much for all they have done for the school.

I'm sure some families will have seen the very sad news that the sign outside the Holy Well was vandalised and stolen over half term. We are so pleased to say that the sign was actually returned yesterday. The police were informed and they have been very helpful.

If any parent is in the position to display an advert of the school either in your car or window of your home, please let us know. We have places available in all our year groups and we need to direct parents to our school.

### Spring Term

**Last day of the Spring term will be 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**May Day Bank Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Non-Pupil Day Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Half term Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 inclusive**

### World Book Day

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March it will be World Book Day. We would like to invite the children at home and in school to dress up as their favourite book character for the day.

Your child's class teacher will be preparing a day of learning immersed in a book that they have chosen. The day will be one to celebrate reading and how much fun we can have with books.

Look out for more information from your child's class teacher on Teams in the coming weeks.

### Vodafone Sim Card

Vodafone UK wanted to do their part to help keep children and parents connected and be able to continue learning from home during this difficult time. They have given away for free 250,000 data SIMs with 30GB of data to use for 90 days.

We requested and have been allocated a small number of Vodafone data SIM cards to give out to parents who have problems logging on to the Wi-Fi for their children to access Microsoft Teams from home. As they are limited, they will be given out on a first come first served basis.

❖ Vodafone data SIM to use as a Wi-Fi replacement.

- ❖ 30GB data (lasts for 90 days)
- ❖ Need a smart laptop/dongle that has a slot for a sim card or a smart phone that takes a sim card
- ❖ Need good Vodafone signal (you can use the Network Status tracker on [www.vodafone.co.uk](http://www.vodafone.co.uk))
  
- ❖ If your phone is locked to another network, you just need to contact your network provider's customer service team to request for your phone to be unlocked.
- ❖ You won't be able to use your phone to make calls/texts while using this data SIM.
- ❖ You will be able to enjoy 30GB data for 90 days this will start once you insert the SIM into your phone and start using the data.

### **Privacy Notice**

The Trust has updated its Privacy Notice for parents. It is available for you to view on our website <https://www.ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

### **Term Dates – Jan 2021 to July 2021**

1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Non Pupil Day
31 <sup>st</sup> May to 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Half Term
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2021	Last Day of Term

### **News from the PTA**



### **Welcome back!**

We hope you enjoyed the week off, including completing the 21 Challenge! We would love to hear about your achievements, so please let us or the school know what you got up to! Thank you very much for the sponsorship raised!

### **Next meeting**

Please join us on Wednesday 3rd March on Zoom at 7.30 pm to discuss new plans for the summer and beyond!

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74483261891?pwd=TWpnS3h6UIRtQnI1cWFDL3F1bHBudz09>

Meeting ID: 744 8326 1891

Passcode: Fy2WMA

### **Your School Lottery**

A special thank you to those winners that have generously donated their winnings! Tickets can be bought any time at <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/holywell-church-of-england-primary-school> Good luck!

### **Paypal Donate**

Thank you very much for the recent donations received though Paypal Giving Fund!

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/3276041>