



Church of the Ascension

C.E. Primary School

26th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please accept my apologies for the number of documents for you to take on board, however I am sure that you appreciate that the task of reopening the school to pupils in YR, Y1 and Y6 – as well as to children of key workers – is a problematical one. Further to my letter of 15th May, I am now in the position to try to clarify some of the arrangements that we will be implementing in order to accommodate those children who will be returning.

We now have the names of those who wish to be allocated a “bubble” and have managed to group these accordingly. There will be two Reception bubbles led by Mrs York and Mrs Baker, two Y1 bubbles led by Miss Barrows and Mrs Hobson and three Y6 bubbles led by Mrs Peters, Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Moore. There will also be three child care bubbles for the children of key workers in Y2-Y5.

We have decided to adopt a flexible start approach to the day in line with the arrangements that we normally use when we have a wet start. Children will be permitted to arrive at school between 8:30 and 9:00 and will go straight into their allocated classroom. We ask that only one adult brings your child to school and that you separate from your child at the school gate. Adults will not be permitted on site at the beginning of the school day, staff will be around to ensure that all children enter the building quickly and safely. With that in mind, we have allocated specific gates for each bubble and we would ask that you only use your child’s allotted gate in order to best preserve social distancing. Rec and Y1 will use the Dudley Rd gate onto the KS2 playground, Y6 will use the Foundry Rd gate at the back of the school and immediately enter their classrooms, Y2-5 key worker children will use the New St gate by the school office.

The children will be dismissed at different times in order to minimise contact with other bubbles. Y6 and the key worker children will finish at 3:00, Reception at 3:10 and Y1 at 3:20. Adults will be permitted on site to collect their children, but please only one per household and please maintain social distancing at all times. As soon as you have collected your children, please leave the school site at once. Please enter and leave the site through the gate that your child came in through in the morning. There is a document with this bundle called OVERVIEW OF BUBBLES FOR PARENTS which gives details regarding where your child will leave the building. If you have more than one child attending school, the staggered arrangement makes it possible for the older child to collect the younger one and then bring their sibling to you at a pre-arranged meeting place. Mr Bradley will be contacting these parents directly by email in order to clearly identify a procedure that will work for the school and for the family. The dismissal time will be the biggest pinch point in the day and I ask that you work with us to iron out the inevitable teething troubles that will come with these changes. Please note that in order to maintain the integrity of the bubbles and to allow teachers their statutory 10% Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) we will be **closing the school to pupils in YR, Y1 and Y6 at lunchtime on Friday afternoon**. It will not be possible to accommodate these children in a childcare arrangement as it will mean the mixing of the bubbles. Please accept my sincere apology for this situation, but having explored all options we are unable to find a solution that meets the

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staffing needs of the structure that we are using. Key worker children in Y2-5 will continue in their bubble until the end of Friday afternoon as we are able to meet this need. Details of finish times on Fridays are on the overview of bubbles document. Closing on Friday afternoon also permits the school building to receive an even more thorough clean than in the week in order to reduce the risk of infection as much as possible.

Regarding the bubbles allocated to the children; we will publish these on Monday 1st June by texting each parent. We have grouped the children according to year group but we do not have the capacity to move children into a bubble that has not been allocated to them. **Please also note that if you have not notified the school that your child will be returning on 2nd June, we will require a two week notice period before we will be able to accommodate them.** This is due to the number of children that we are trying to safely have on site.

The school experience for the children attending will be very different to how it was during the first two terms of the academic year. Bubble sizes will be as small as possible and we will be encouraging social distancing as much as possible. The curriculum that the children will experience will not be the same as it would have been during a normal summer term, but on the whole, what is set on the website for home schooling will be similar to what is being delivered in the classrooms. This work will be planned by your child's usual class teacher.

On the first day, the children will need to bring:

Rec & Y1 – pencil case containing pencil, rubber, colouring pencils, sharpener and glue stick.
Sun hat, water bottle and inhaler. Lunch if not ordering a grab bag from the kitchen.

Y2 – Y6 – as above, but a reading book from home may be brought in.

Please note that most of these things will need to stay in your child's tray until restrictions change. It may be prudent to send these things in a carrier bag which can then be disposed of.

Children should wear school uniform as normal. If this presents a problem for any family, please contact the school office.

The school website will contain the majority of information, please email any queries to your child's class teacher or the info box. We will severely be restricting access to the school site and parents will not be permitted into the building unless they have a prior appointment. Teachers will attempt to reply to any concerns at the end of the school day.

Thank you all for your support in this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



S Hudson
Head Teacher

