



Church of the Ascension

C.E. Primary School

15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You are receiving this letter as you have a child or children in Y2 –Y5. As you will be aware, the Government has announced that it would like primary school children in Years 6, 1 and Reception to return to school as part of a phased return from after half term. The children of critical workers are still able to attend for childcare. As such, if you are a critical worker and wish your child to attend school for child care we would like you to register your requirements with the school office as soon as possible. Please note that we anticipate the demand for these places to be considerable due to the return to school for children in the other year groups. If your family has been using the school for child care during the lockdown period, you need to be aware that we will be considerably changing the school routines in order to accommodate having many more pupils on site.

Our plan to meet the Government's request is constantly changing as different guidance is being published on a daily basis. However it is as follows:

- We anticipate splitting the child care children into two groups, broadly matching their age. The size of this group – or “bubble” - will not exceed 15 children.
- Each bubble will have an allocated adult in order to minimise who they are in contact with. This will not be your child's class teacher, but will be an adult known to your child
- Each bubble will access the home learning activities planned by their class teacher but that will only play some of a typical day
- Each bubble will only access their classroom, allocated toilets and outdoor space – where they will not be permitted to mix with children from another bubble
- Children will be actively encouraged to wash their hands
- Surfaces that are touched will be cleaned more regularly than usual
- Children will access specific toilets, these will be cleaned during the day and access to them will be monitored to encourage social distancing
- Children will eat a packed lunch in the classroom, or outside, in order to remain within their bubble
- Children will need to wear school uniform that is regularly washed
- Where possible, children will have a dedicated set of resources for their own personal use in order to minimise the need to share equipment across different bubbles.
- We will encourage the children to keep their distance from each other. However, we are fully aware that children will naturally gravitate towards each other and are unable to guarantee that they will effectively manage any kind of social distancing even when it has been prepared for
- Children of critical workers will be kept within their own bubbles and will not mix with other groups

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Depending upon the number of people accessing the site it is highly likely that we will need to stagger the school day – start, finish, break and lunch - in order to best facilitate social distancing. We will not be permitting parents to enter the school site in the morning and ask that you separate from your child at the school gate. Dismissal arrangements will be given to parents when we have a clearer number of the children on site and we are able to be more specific. Please practice social distancing when waiting to enter the school site. The flexible start and finish times under the current critical worker child care will not be possible to maintain with so many more pupils on site and children for child care can only enter and leave the building at times that we will issue when we have a clearer picture of what is happening.

There is currently no plan for anyone in school to wear personal protective clothing above and beyond normal expectations, except when it is deemed necessary for delivery of first aid. This may well change as more information is published. We will clean the school in order to meet the guidelines set out by the Government.

Please note that in order to maintain the integrity of the bubbles, we will not be able to offer OSCAR club before or after school as this would mean mixing children from different bubbles. We will **not be able** to offer during the day child care to any family that does not fall into the key worker category as we expect the number of places that we can offer to be extremely limited.

Also, please be aware that in order to fully brief staff and to set up the environment for the new arrangements, the school will be closed to all pupils on Monday 1st June. We plan to begin this next phase of the return on Tuesday 2nd June.

If your family contains a key worker and you wish to request childcare, please email info@churchascen.dudley.sch.uk with your child's class, year group and name and we will endeavour to match our availability to the demand for places.

Thank you for your support at this difficult time. We have had many encouraging comments and they have been much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



S Hudson
Head Teacher

