



Shoscombe

Church School

Inspiring Everyone to Shine

25th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you have all enjoyed a break over the summer holiday. This letter contains much the same information that was sent to all parents on 15th July to act as a reminder of our plans to keep children safe when we return to school next week. Where changes have been made, due to recent reviewed guidance, I have **highlighted that section heading in yellow**.

I would also like to remind parents that school do not have any special arrangements for early access to information from the government. We find out changes at the same time as everyone else! This does unfortunately mean that we must make last minute changes to plans. Please bear with us.

Our plans and Risk Assessment has been informed by the document '[Guidance for Full opening – schools](#)' produced by Gov.uk, last updated on 7th August.

Prevention

The best way to reduce the spread of the virus is for anyone experiencing symptoms, or anyone within their household experiences symptoms, or anyone has been in close contact with someone who has the virus to **remain at home**. The Dfe Guidance, 7th Aug, states that school must:

Ensure that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days, and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

All schools must follow this process and ensure all staff are aware of it.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.

Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

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Our Risk Assessment covers details on how the school would manage a situation where a child or member of staff develops symptoms whilst at school and what measures need to be taken in the event of a confirmed case of the virus. We are reviewing and updating our Risk Assessment regularly in response to changes and guidance.

Covid-19 Symptoms and NHS Test and Trace

Staff and children should not attend school if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in the household. If your child were to become ill at school we would expect you to collect them promptly. The Dfe Guidance, 7th Aug, states that:

Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

By the autumn term, all schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where they think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Please be aware of your responsibilities and be prepared to act quickly as required. We all have a shared responsibility to make informed and sensible choices that ensure others remain safe and that schools can remain open.

Hand washing and cleaning

As the single most effective way to stay safe, we will continue prioritising hand washing for all children and staff. Each room has additional cleaning equipment, including soap and hand sanitizer. Following guidelines, we will remind children of the benefits of good hygiene, and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Please continue to reinforce this at home.



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Guidance says that toilets can be used by different groups as long as they are regularly cleaned. We will continue with our thorough cleaning rotas and additional handwashing stations with sanitizer as we have this term. Each classroom has a cleaning kit to ensure that hard surfaces and 'high touch' areas are cleaned throughout the day.

School Communication

To reduce the risk to all, we will be following continued Government guidance and allowing parents and carers only limited access to the school building. We ask that communication continues to be via the school office (email or telephone) or through Dojo. Staff on gate duty will be able to pass forms and messages to the relevant people as we ask that no-one enters the school building without a prior appointment being made. This will of course remain under regular review.

Class arrangements and 'bubbles'

Although Covid-19 is still present and a risk the Government recognises that it is not possible to have class bubbles of 30 and still socially distance 1-2metres apart. It is the school leaderships' role to mitigate the risk for all returning to school in September. Classes will not need to socially distance themselves from each other in their class or bubble anymore, but teaching staff must try to stay 2 metres from children or spend limited time with them if closer. We have decided to form two key-stage bubbles as this will allow children to eat and play together and also allow wrap-around care to happen more easily. When in the classroom our children will remain in their own class bubble. Grouping children in this way will also ensure that we are able to continue to offer an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum. Within class, children will be seated in a way that minimises social contact, **often in rows**. They will be issued with their own set of equipment that should not be shared. Please do not send pencil cases into school, **unless your child is in Sycamore Class**. **This equipment must stay in school**. Children should not bring bags to school as we will minimise the use of our cloakrooms. They will need their water bottle, and a coat daily plus a **packed lunch if having**. **We will not be sending reading books between home and school in the first term**. Arrangements will be slightly different in Oak Class where we will be delivering the Early Years Curriculum. Children will share resources and equipment but we will only use equipment which can be easily and frequently cleaned. We ask that your child does not bring toys in from home. **They should not bring bags to school**. Your child will be expected to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Pupil and staff will not be wearing face coverings in school as the government advice is quite clear that this is not necessary.

Pick up and drop off of children

It is currently still not safe for staff if parents gather and talk in the playground or outside the school gates and so we politely ask you to follow these safety arrangements. Where possible children should enter school by themselves and go straight to the classroom. There will be a staggered start and ending to the school day to avoid bottlenecks at doors, gates and in the playground that would compromise our key stage bubbles. If you are waiting please remain 1-2 metres from others and please do not congregate to talk once your child has gone into school. Our staggered time slots will only work if you are punctual and stick to your time slot so we politely ask for good punctuality from all. As I am sure you will appreciate, movement of 100 pupils is complex.

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Start of day times

Key stage 2: Sycamore Class and **Beech Class** should arrive between **8:30am and 8:40am**. They can enter via either gate and should go straight into class.

Key stage 1: Chestnut Class and **Oak Class** should arrive between **8:45am and 8:55am**. They can enter via either gate and should go straight into class. We understand that younger children may be apprehensive at first. Please encourage your child to be as independent as possible, particularly if they are in Chestnut Class.

Our new Reception parents will need to accompany their child to the classroom. This is acceptable but please do not go into the classroom itself. Mrs Wheeler or Mrs Samways will give you a warm welcome just outside the class in the Early Years Shelter. We will work with you and be as compassionate and sensitive to the children's needs as we can be, whilst following government guidance. Please do speak to Mrs Noall or Mrs Rorison if you have any concerns.

We will **NOT** be able to operate the Walking Bus initially in Term 1 but we aim to have this up and running as soon as possible into the new school year. I will update you on this when I can.

The gates will be locked at 9am. Any child arriving after this time will be marked as late and will need to enter school via the intercom gate. Please be punctual so that office staff do not need to mix between bubbles whilst taking your child to their classroom.

End of day times

Key stage 2: Sycamore Class and **Beech Class** will dismiss pupils at **3:20pm**.

Key stage 1: Chestnut Class and **Oak Class** will dismiss pupils at **3:05pm**.

Please be punctual to collect your child and ensure your child leaves the site with you immediately.

If you have children in both key stage bubbles please following the timings for your oldest child.

Government guidance from 9th July states: *'It is not possible to social distance during car journeys and transmission of COVID-19 can definitely occur during car journeys, so avoid travelling with someone from outside your household (or your support bubble), unless you can practise social distancing – for example by cycling'*. Therefore **please avoid lift sharing** with anyone outside your household or support bubble, **or wear a face mask whilst in their car**. If your child uses BANES transport and you choose for them to wear a face covering whilst on the taxi, then this must be removed and safely disposed of before entry into school. **The government has issued further guidance on the use of [transport to school](#).**

Wrap around care

We are able to operate both Breakfast Club and After School Club from September.

Breakfast Club will operate as before and will open from 7:45am. Children will sit, eat and play in their Key Stage bubbles when at Breakfast Club. There is no need to book, but please ensure your child is registered with us before their first session. You will be billed weekly at the end of each week. We will ask children to stick to their key stage bubbles whilst at the club.

Information for After School Club, how to book a place and charging will be available on our school website by September. **This will start the first full week back to school.**

Rules, routines and behaviour

Please make sure that your child is familiar with good hygiene procedures (especially good thorough handwashing) and the necessity for following school rules on social distancing. The children who have already returned have been excellent at this so we have every confidence that all children will be quick to adopt the new rules. It is essential for the safety of everyone that your child understands the importance of following adults' instructions and is able to follow our rules. As such a new MAT Behaviour Policy has been developed which will act alongside our school Behaviour Policy. I will make this available **via our website**. Please help your child to understand that any deliberate non-compliance will be dealt with swiftly and firmly. Our expectations for behaviour will be high as always and of course teachers will regularly remind and support children with their choices.



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Uniform

Please can all children wear full school uniform in September. Uniform plays an important role in contributing to the welcoming family ethos of our school and helps set expectations for routines and behaviour. Details of our uniform can be found on our school website and it available to buy from Midsomer Norton Sports and Camping. We have considerable amounts of second-hand uniform available in school too. A polite reminder that jewellery, apart from stud earrings, is not allowed and long hair should be tied back at all times. Extreme haircuts, large hair accessories and trainers are not part of our uniform. Children should come dressed in their PE kit every Friday as they will have PE as part of our Flexi Friday.

Children will not be able to change in school.

School Meals

From September our school meals will be provided by the Midsomer Norton Partnership. Details have already been sent via the newsletter on how to ensure you are registered with Parent Pay for this. For the first term we will be providing a part servery / part take away service as we cannot all safely use the dining room. Key Stage 1 will be able to order a hot meal or bring a packed lunch from home and they will eat in the hall. Key Stage 2 will eat in their classrooms and will be able to order a school meal or bring a packed lunch from home. Pupils eligible for Free School Meals will return to having their lunch at school and will no longer receive lunch vouchers. **School meals must be ordered by Thursday of the week before.**

Attendance

Attendance at school will be compulsory for the vast majority of children. The government has relaxed the rules on attendance during lockdown, however this will change in September. The government guidance says: *'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.'* If you have any specific concerns about your child please don't hesitate to contact me or Mrs Rorison.

I realise that for many of you this may be an anxious time. We will work closely with you to ensure your child settles back into school quickly and successfully. Our curriculum will be adjusted to help children to catch up and we will have a strong focus on emotional and physically well-being. We are really looking forward to starting school next week and seeing all our fabulous children again.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Ruth Noall
Executive Head teacher

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