



St. Barnabas' Church of England Aided Primary School

Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN1 2EY

Telephone: 01892 522958 Office email: Office@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M. Duncombe

Deputy Headteacher: Mr C. Mackinnon

22nd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school has been welcoming pupils in different year groups back to school since June. We approached this with great caution, reviewing all the scientific advice to ensure that we could be as safe as possible. Thanks to extensive risk assessments, and safety measures being put in place, this has gone extremely well. Thank you to all those parents who sent your children back into school – it has been lovely to see them.

We are delighted that we can now look forward to seeing all our pupils back in September. We will be very busy over the summer planning, completing new and detailed risk assessments, and working out exactly what school will look like and feel like when your child returns.

Please make sure to read all of this letter, I know it is very long but we have a lot of information to pass on to you.

As children will have moved to a new class, the entrance/exit they use may have changed:

- Year 1: children should line up on the playground, outside Willow Class. Please do not enter the Willow Class area before Mrs Pring comes out to bring in the children.
- Year 2: children should line up between Willow Class and the railings leading into the office.
- Years 3 & 4: children should line up outside the far doors the other side of Acorn Class.
- Years 5 & 6: children should line up outside the far doors the other side of Willow Class.

We're working hard to consider how we group pupils together, ensure that we reduce contact between different groups of pupils, and keep the stringent cleaning processes we already have in place to ensure that our school is as safe as can be for your child.

In preparation, there are some key points that you need to be aware of to ensure that your child is safe. Please be aware some details may change; we will keep you updated via the school website.

Health Information

You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be



sent home and must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test (see below) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID-19, your child must self-isolate at home for 14 days and not come to school.

Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately.

Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education, have priority access to testing. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testingand-tracing/>), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform the school.

If we become aware that someone has tested positive for COVID-19, we will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 attended the school, as identified by NHS Test and Trace. The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

Other Information

Children will be in a class bubble with their teacher and every effort will be made to ensure they remain in this bubble as much as possible. Government guidance now allows teachers to go into other bubbles if necessary. In this instance teachers will maintain social distance from staff and children.

On occasions it will be necessary for children to be near another bubble i.e. in the lunch hall. They will have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes to avoid mixing with other groups in the playground, corridors and around school. Act of Worship will be held virtually so that children are not in the hall together.

Key points such as doors handrails etc will be cleaned frequently throughout the day. Doors and windows will be kept open as much as possible. At the end of each school day, classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned by our cleaning team.

First aid will be carried out as usual, and if a child needs to see a First Aider because he/she is symptomatic, if the First Aider is unable to maintain a 2m distance from the child, he/she will wear PPE.

The government has recommended that children should walk or cycle to school wherever possible.

Attendance at school will be compulsory for the vast majority of children. The government 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."

Pupils and staff will not be wearing face coverings in school. Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. If this advice changes, we will let you know. If face coverings are used on public transport to get to school, before entry to the building they must be removed and safely disposed of in a covered bin, or placed in a plastic bag.

Your child will be expected to follow strict behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils and keeping their hands clean. Pupils will be expected to wash their hands regularly, and/or use hand sanitiser.

KS2 children (Yr 3-6) may bring a healthy snack to school such as a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at breaktime – children may not bring crisps, nuts or chocolate as a snack.

Our school kitchen will reopen in September, and lunches will be available again. Pupils eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school and will no longer receive lunch vouchers. Free School Meal vouchers for the last week of this term have now been distributed, as have separate vouchers for the Summer holidays.

We have taken the difficult decision to offer only a packed lunch during term 1. This is so that we can ensure there is sufficient time for all children to eat their lunch, in a way that allows social distancing, time for extra cleaning, and does not adversely impact on the timings of the school day. Lunches for children in years 3-6 (apart from those eligible for free school meals) should be paid for via ParentPay. Of course children may bring a packed lunch as usual instead.

In order to maintain social distancing during social times, the playground and field will be zoned. It will be really important that your child stays within the area that they are told to.

Every child will have their own stationery in school to ensure that equipment is not shared. Each child will be provided with a set of equipment; please do not send pencil cases into school. Children should not bring items from home to school – this includes reading books, toys, games etc.

Children in Years 5 & 6 are permitted to bring phones to school but this should only be where necessary. Where possible, children should not bring phones to school. If a child needs to bring a phone to school, it must be given to their teacher in class where it will be put in a plastic bag and can be collected at the end of the day.

Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform.

Only 1 person may enter the school office area at any time. Please form a socially distanced queue at the end of the railings if someone is already in the office.

There will be staggered starts and endings to the school day. The playground gates will open at 8:30am with the children coming straight into the school building. The gates will be locked at

8:50 am with the register being taken. Any child who comes after this time will be registered as late.

In the afternoon the classes will have a staggered end time. If you are waiting on the playground, you must socially distance at 1m+ apart from people not in your family. All parents and children should leave the school grounds promptly. Children will only be released from school at the end of the day, there will be no early releases for children who have a sibling finishing school at a different time.

End of day	Year Groups
2:50	Year 1 and Year 3
2:55	Year 2 and Year 4
3pm	Year R and Year 5
3:05	Year 6

We will not be running any activity clubs during Term 1 and will review this for Term 2.

The After-School Club will run as normal and we will place children in Key Stage bubbles as far as we are able. Places may be restricted to ensure sufficient staffing and social distancing can be maintained.

We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning in September, after some months out of school. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our school as safe as can be. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for all pupils and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required. Although very many of our pupils have worked hard using our remote learning resources provided by our fabulous team, we are fully aware that some learning has been lost. We are adapting our curriculum to make sure that they get the learning and knowledge that they need to achieve success in the future.

We look forward to seeing you all in September and wish you a restful Summer.

With best wishes

Moir Duncombe
Headteacher