

All Saints' C of E (VC) Primary School

Highlands Drive Maldon Essex CM9 6HY

Headteachers Mr P. J. Brown B.Ed Hons (NPQH)

Telephone 01621 853519
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Email admin@allsaints-maldon.essex.sch.uk
Website www.allsaintsprimaryschoolmaldon.co.uk



16th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you as a follow up to last week's letter dated Monday 11th May, in response to the Prime Ministers announcement that there would be a partial reopening of schools on 1st June with EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils initially being invited to attend.

We should stress that this reopening will be dependent on the continuous assessment of Central Government, who will establish as to whether it is deemed safe to do so. This of course means that years 2,3,4 and 5 would continue to learn at home with the support of online learning from the school unless they are children of keyworkers who will need continued support in school.

I have conducted a thorough risk assessment of the proposed arrangements and amended them accordingly. School life will be very different for a while to the life in school that we all enjoyed prior to the lockdown. However, staff will first and foremost be continuing to support the safety and wellbeing of the children, whilst also continuing to support their progress academically.

Should the school reopen to the year groups mentioned, I want to make you aware of the arrangements we would look to put in place to support that safe reopening.

Class Arrangements

The guiding principle for children being in school at this stage is that a small group of children will be taught with limited contact of other pupils/adults and with little to no mixing of other groups of children. Class sizes will not exceed 15 pupils. This may mean that children will need to be in a different classroom from their usual class and have a different teacher.

EYFS will be taught in three classes. Ducklings / Cygnets and Tigers classrooms will all be used for teaching EYFS pupils. Miss Satchell, Mrs Horrocks, Miss Rhodes, Mrs Brown and other members of support staff that the children will be familiar with, will continue to support these three classes.

Year 1 will be taught by their usual class teachers of Miss Gibson, Mr Cobb and Mrs Baker. However, with Mrs Martinez expecting a baby, Mrs Spurling will also teach Year 1 Leopards. Miss Gibson will be teaching in Otters classroom, Mr Cobb in Badgers classroom and Mrs Baker and Mrs Spurling will be in Foxes classroom.



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Mr Bearman, Mr Cairey and Mrs White will teach their usual Year 6 children in their usual classrooms.

Pupils in Years 2 and 3 that are children of key workers will be taught in Lions classroom by Mrs White and Mrs Lee-Ranson, and children of keyworkers that are in Years 4 and 5 will be taught by Mr Smith in Leopards classroom.

Pupils that continue to access learning from home will be supported by a dedicated team of adults including Mrs Mines, Miss Martin, Mrs Martinez and Mrs Hyam.

Mr Brown and Mrs White together with other staff will be available to direct pupils returning to school on the first morning back as well as support distancing measures for dropping off children in the morning.

The layout of the classrooms which will support distancing may not be ones that are familiar to children but adults in school will focus their initial efforts on supporting children in unfamiliar settings and class layouts. However, the guidance is also clear in that it says: it cannot be expected that children of this age will be 2m apart from one another at all times. But robust hygiene standards will be actively encouraged throughout the school day.

The guidance is also clear in that a minimal number of adults will support the class; in some instances, this may be the teacher only. However, this will be risk assessed on a class by class basis in order to provide effective support.

Dropping Off / Collection of Pupils

Children should be brought to school by one adult only where possible and walking to school is strongly encouraged in the guidance. Children will enter their classroom by the external door to their classroom and will be dismissed from the same door at the end of the day.

Children can be dropped off to their classroom between 8.30am and 9.00am and will go directly into the classroom, where they will store their lunchbox and coat etc. in their own workspace and wash their hands. Parents are asked to be patient and wait with their child until the door to their classroom is clear and pupils can enter safely.

We would then respectfully ask that parents leave the premises immediately and not congregate either on site or directly outside the school, to support social distancing amongst adults in our school community. The usual three gates to the school will be open to the site, including the gate leading to Beacon Hill, however, should you use this narrow path please be patient and vigilant with other users and take



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necessary precautions. We will also be opening the large gates to the field at this time to support social distancing.

To further support social distancing we will be staggering collection times:

- EYFS to be collected at 3.00pm.
- Year 1 and Key Worker pupils to be collected at 3.15pm
- Year 6 pupils to be collected at 3.30pm.

Please do not arrive at school too far in advance as this will increase the potential for contact, but also please arrive promptly so that you can collect your child and leave, before the next group of parents arrive to collect.

Where two siblings are in attendance, both can be collected at the same time to enable adults to leave the school site promptly.

Of course this will not allow for the open door policy we pride ourselves on and any key information you believe is of vital importance for sharing with the class teacher should be made through the office, either by telephone or preferably email.

School Timetable, Curriculum Offer and Uniform

In thinking about our curriculum offer we have tried to facilitate a quality education provision which maintains levels of social distancing wherever possible but continues to support the health and wellbeing of each child.

We will be giving children a mix of lessons that are interspersed with physical activity that can be done at a distance. The guidance talks about the importance of being outdoors to limit transmission and of course we know that physical activity supports mental health and wellbeing. The Daily Mile, Tennis, Trigolf, Yoga and skipping are all activities that can be done at distance and will form part of a daily curriculum offer.

To lessen disruption and enable pupils to be able to quickly engage with the physical activity planned we are going to relax the uniform policy to allow pupils to wear trainers during the school day. Other than this, physical activity will be able to be conducted in usual school clothes, much as the children do when playing at lunchtime and breaks during usual schooling.



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I hope you appreciate that social distancing will look differently, according to age groups, e.g. Year 6 pupils will have very distinct workspaces which I know they will be brilliant at managing. In EYFS strategies will be employed to encourage distancing, such as individual spots for children to sit on during carpet time, but to reiterate the guidance states that it cannot be expected of children of this age to stay 2m apart. Year 1 will also have individual workspaces but may need more frequent periods of physical activity.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Children will eat in their classrooms, whether they are a packed lunch or a school dinner. School meals will be a simplified version of the menu, but there will always be a hot meal or cold option available. This menu will be circulated and will be the same each week. When considering the menu, we needed something that was going to be easy to serve to the children in the classrooms.

In this initial period of reopening there will be no opportunity for unstructured play as this would result in mixing, however the frequent physical activity that occurs through the day will support well-being and socialisation at distance.

Wider School Life

Under the current guidelines there are many events and activities that simply will not currently be able to take place. Any event which facilitates a large gathering cannot run. This includes class assemblies, Sports Day, the PTA Summer Fete, and many other activities that all contribute towards the vibrant school life, the All Saints' community enjoys.

Sadly, we will also not be able to run after school activities or school trips including the residential trip for Year 6's. Neither will we be able to come together in school for our whole school daily act of collective worship.

PPE and Cleaning

Neither children nor adults will be wearing PPE. The guidance recommends that it is not worn. However, if a pupil displays signs of coronavirus the member of staff supporting them will wear PPE until they can be collected by an adult.



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The school cleaning company is conducting a high clean of the school once new classroom layouts have been arranged. This high-level cleaning will continue at the end of each school day once the school has reopened. During the course of the school day children and adults will regularly be washing hands at their classroom base, will have their own individual sets of resources to avoid transmission and any equipment used by more than one group will be cleaned between use. Some equipment will not be in circulation as it cannot be easily cleaned.

What If A Child or Adult Displays Symptoms Of COVID-19?

If a child shows symptoms of COVID-19 at home, they should not come into school and testing should be sought. If they test positive, they should isolate for 14 days.

If in school a child shows symptoms of COVID-19 they will be sent through to the music room where they will be supported by an adult wearing PPE. Their parents will be contacted, and they should be collected from the music room external door by the staff car park. Parents will be advised that the child is tested as soon as possible, and the school contacted with the results.

All parents of children in that group of 15 will be contacted at the end of the day through a flyer, advising that a pupil in that group has shown symptoms and will be tested. However, at this point there need be no further action.

If as a result of that test the result is negative, all parents of children within that class will still be informed as soon as possible and children will continue to come to school.

If, however a child sent home receives a positive test result then all that group will need to be sent home and isolated for 14 days including the adult working with them.

To help us to plan effectively it would be useful for parents of EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 children to indicate whether or not they intend to send their children back to school by sending a short email to parentfeedback@allsaintsprimaryschoolmaldon.co.uk The guidance strongly encourages parents to do so but also continues by saying that parents will not be held to account for non-attendance.

In my 24 years of teaching and school management I have never faced such challenging times and of course there will continue to be challenges as children rejoin the school.

Please be assured that the staff of All Saints' will continue to work hard and do whatever they can to support your children and continue to keep them safe in school.



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I would ask for your patience and support as we face these challenges together. If there is one thing I have learned from the last few weeks, it is that there is enormous solidarity in our school community at all levels. I cannot thank you enough for your words of encouragement and generosity of spirit towards each other.

Once again, my virtual door is open by emailing the school if you wish to discuss anything further.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Brown
Headteacher



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