



# All Saints CE Academy, Denstone

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23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020

Dear all,

I hope this letter finds you all well and safe. I apologise in advance for the length of this letter but wanted to give you all as much detail as possible about our plans from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Having taken into account all the government's guidance and spoken with the Trust Board and the school's LAC (Local Academy Council), I am now in a position to inform you of the following arrangements.

As you are aware the Government have only said as yet that they MAY re-open schools on June 1<sup>st</sup> to some year groups. For our schools this means Nursery, Reception and Year 1. An announcement is expected from the Government on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May around their Five Tests which should confirm their views on the safe re-opening of schools. Key worker and vulnerable children from all other year groups will still be able to attend.

It is vital that you do not send your children to school if you or any family members display symptoms. The government have stated that if you have a family member displaying COVID-19 symptoms, the child cannot return to school until the family have isolated for 14 days. If your child has an underlying health condition that makes them vulnerable then they should stay at home.

Many of you will be concerned or anxious about this potential return. You will want to consider your individual circumstances. You will have different viewpoints on what is the best thing to do at this difficult time.

Ultimately, if you continue to have concerns about the safe return of your children then the right thing for you to do will be to keep your child/ren safely at home. You trust us as a school. We value that trust. All decisions made will be in the best interests of the children and families we care for.

The staff and I met (at a socially acceptable distance) this week to create these plans and prepare the schools for reopening to wider numbers of pupils. The first action was to remove all soft furnishings including cushions, bean bags, soft toys etc from our classrooms and store them away safely. Each school will receive a deep clean during half term week.

Following our request for numbers, we have been able to split the number of children coming in to school into two groups. Nursery and Reception will be together and Year 1 and other Key Worker children will be grouped together. The group sizes for All Saints are very small and are not above 6 children. Each group will have two members of staff, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Lord in N/R with Miss Shanahan covering the days when Mrs Lord is not working. Mrs Tomlinson and Mrs Cope will be with Yr1 and KW children. These staff, unless affected by illness will not change over the week. Mrs Manby will be in school preparing home learning for our children who remain at home, communicating with our families and completing regular cleaning of hot points around school during the day in line with the guidance.

We will also be taking the staff and children's temperatures each morning before coming in to school. We have purchased infra red thermometers to complete this. If temperatures are above the stated guidance (38 degrees) then we will ask that the children are taken home and medical advice is sought before returning.

The children will not be required to wear school uniform but we do ask that they come in clean clothes each morning and be suitably dressed for the weather and for outdoor education. Please could you also ensure hats, sun cream and two bottles of water are sent in each day.

Can we also please ask that the children do **not** bring in cuddly toys or anything for show and tell.

### **Mornings:**

We are staggering the start of our school day to allow for safe entrance to the school. Please can **Nursery and Reception children be at school for 8.40 and enter through the main school entrance.** Please can **Yr 1 and Key Worker children be at school for 8.50 and enter through the usual playground gate.** There will be cones distanced at 2 meters for you to queue safely. When temperatures have been taken at the door and the children have come inside, we ask that you exit through the second wooden gate which will be signposted. N/R parents will drop the children at the main door and then exit through the wooden gates by the staff car park.

If you have children who fall into both groups, we ask that you drop off at the earlier time but adhered to the two separate entrances.

### **Classrooms and resources:**

Guidance specifies that we are not expected to socially distance children within their group but cannot mix the two groups together. We will spread children out as much as possible in the classrooms and encourage distancing. Each child will have their own pot of resources which will remain theirs for the duration of the term (however long that may be!). If you would prefer your child/ren to bring in their own resources then that is fine but we ask that they remain in school. We will be doing work in new books which the children will keep in a tray specific for them. Our mornings will be structured as they would do normally in school with Phonics, reading, English and Maths. The afternoons will be focussing on a whole school project which will tie in with what our home learners will be set.

There will be first aid kits in each classroom should there be any minor injuries.

### **Playtimes and Lunch**

Due to the small number of returning children, we will not be staggering break times as we have enough room to distance the two groups outside during these times. Provided the weather continues to be kind to us one group will be on the field, the other on the playground, the groups will alternate the facility they use. If we can't use the field then N/R children will use their own playground at the rear of the school building. There will only be play equipment out that can be sterilised at the end of each break. The larger play equipment will not be in use.

I have had a meeting with Chartwells, our lunch provider regarding lunchtimes at our school. They have completed their own detailed risk assessments for each of the schools they provide a service to. Lunchtime will not be staggered due to the square footage of our hall and the number of pupils we have coming in each day. Nursery and Reception will enter the hall first and take their seats. Year 1 and KW children will be seated at their tables which will be distanced from the first group. Meals will be plated up and taken to the children by the lunchtime staff. When lunch is finished, the Nursery and Reception children will be asked to exit first and will be taken to the playground. Year 1 and KW children will exit through the hall door and will play on the school field. When the weather is inclement and the field cannot be used, the N/R children will use their playground.

Handwashing will be completed at regular intervals throughout the day and obviously before and after lunch.

### **Picking up**

As for drop off, we will be staggering pick up times. We ask that Nursery and Reception children are picked up at 3 p.m. and Yr 1 and KW children at 3.15 p.m. N/R children will be let out through the main door and Yr1 and KW children via the usual playground exit. We ask that you again queue safely by the cones placed across the playground.

### **PPE**

We have purchased PPE for all staff. We have a large supply of gloves, disposable aprons, face masks, sterilising gel, sterilising fluid, antibacterial spray and wipes. Hot spots will be cleaned throughout the day. Staff will not be wearing face masks to teach the children. The government advice given has been to use these for intimate care (nappy changing) and for use when children or a member of staff falls ill. As mentioned above, we will be taking staff and pupils' temperatures each morning before coming into the school building. We hope that you will consent to this as it is vital to the protection of us all. There will be a consent form being sent out shortly.

### **Cleaning and Hygiene**

Following meetings with Hi Spec, who provide our cleaning service, a further updated regime of cleaning has been put in place. As mentioned above, all frequently touched surfaces, door handles, equipment, rails, contact points and toilets will be cleaned throughout the day. A plentiful supply of liquid soap and warm water is available. Additional hand sanitisers have also been purchased and the children will be encouraged to use this in addition to regular hand washing. Lidded bins have been ordered and will be in place in every part of school for June 1<sup>st</sup> for disposal of tissues. This is in addition to bins already in place.

### **Toilets**

The children will be allowed to go to the toilet with children in their group but we will not be mixing the two. Mrs Lord will be accompanying children to the toilets in N/R to ensure they are cleaned and that they are not in use with children from the other group.

### **Home Learning**

Home Learning will continue to take place as it currently stands. Mrs Manby will be taking the lead on planning and delivering this work. Please keep a regular check on the website as it is being constantly updated.

## **Thursday photo sharing**

We know that our children are really missing each other, so we thought that now we have children regularly back in school we would share the work we are doing in school with you at home. Likewise, for those children still at home, we ask that on a Thursday by 12 noon, you send in two or three pictures of the work you have completed during the week and then on a Friday morning, the teachers in each group will share these with the children in school. We will also be putting pictures on the website on a Thursday evening of our work in school for you to look at too!

## **Attendance**

Parents of children not attending who are eligible in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be expected to call or e-mail the school regularly inform us and keep us updated of their thinking.

Parents will not face fines or any other sanctions if they do decide to keep their child safely at home but if you do keep your child at home, you must keep in touch with us so that we can record that information as part of our statutory duty regarding safeguarding and attendance.

If any of you are struggling or in difficulties, for whatever reason, but in particular with having enough food, then please e-mail me via the office e-mail. I may not be able to solve all problems, but I will try, or signpost you to the right support if I am able to do so. We have been able to help some families in difficulty with food shortage and would always hope to do so, completely confidentially.

I hope this letter has reassured you that we are continuing to operate in the safest possible way and that the health and safety of our children, parents and staff is paramount.

We are aware that this is very different to what you and the children are used to – and we are aware that a lot of changes have had to be made to accommodate the required children. However, we are confident that this is a plan that will work. All staff have been briefed and we have ironed out any concerns and questions posed. I know that you will appreciate the amount of work that has gone in to the planning of this. If you have any questions about the information that has been shared, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Manby.

With very best wishes

Rebecca Walker

Executive Headteacher