



All Saints Church School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Sharon Bowditch BAQTS

Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are all very much looking forward to the return of ALL pupils on Monday 8th March. It will be wonderful to have us all together again.

All our Covid mitigations will continue to be in place and our updated Risk Assessment, in line with the new Department of Education guidance, will be available to view on our website next week. As always, I will notify you when I have completed the review and update via our SZApp.

Drop off and pick up times

Many changes have been made to drop off and pick-up times over the past year and we now want to go back to a similar system which was going to be put in place after Christmas.

1. We now ask that parents and carers, when leaving their vehicle, wear masks during drop off and pick-up times.
2. Children will go straight into class, rather than line up outside at their drop off points. This is to help prevent children and staff from getting wet and cold, as well as helping to prevent any unnecessary face to face talking whilst in the line.
3. **Both Mrs Adams and Mrs Sharp (*Miss Duffy on a Wednesday*)** will be at the front of the school to take messages for teachers. Mrs Sharp (*Miss Duffy*) will cover KS1 drop off zone and Mrs Adams will cover KS2 drop off zone.
4. **Teachers will be ready in class** to greet their children with a morning task.
5. Mrs Bowditch and other staff members will help to escort children walking around the school building and into their classrooms safely.
6. 1:1 support TAs will be ready to greet the child they support at the said drop off timing in the normal positions.
7. **Children from breakfast club** will go to their classrooms via the playground and not via the front of the school at the allocated drop off time. All children in Classes 2 – 6 will still enter their classroom via their external playground doors. Year 1 and Acorn children will be taken to their classroom by a member of the breakfast club staff.

We will only be having two drop off times, which will mean that it is even more important that once parents/carers have dropped their child/children in the morning, that they leave the school site swiftly in order for the next Key Stage to arrive.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children are to be dropped off at 8.40am (unless they have siblings in Key Stage 1 – we then ask that children are dropped off at the later Key Stage 1 time). Years 3 and 4 children are to walk up the path next to where the smaller marquee was situated and Years 5 and 6 are to walk up the path running alongside the staff car park. Mr Ross and/or Mrs Bowditch will supervise this area.

Acorns, Year 1 and 2 children are to be dropped off at 8.50am.

Pick up times will remain the same for the time being. Both the Class teacher and Teaching Assistant will help to ensure children are sent to their parent or carer. This will help to move traffic in and out of the school site quickly as well as lessen the number of people on site waiting. **Please also remember to pick up your children at the later sibling's time.**

At both drop off and pick-up time please be reminded that only ONE adult should be leaving their car to collect their child/children.

Staggered pick up timings

3:00pm – Acorn children

3:05pm – Year 1 and Year 4

3:10pm – Year 2 and Year 5

3:15pm – Year 3 and Year 6

Please remember that it is imperative that everyone continues to follow the Government guidelines when on the school grounds. Warmer weather entices us to want to chat to friends during pick up time. We still have to keep class bubbles separate and would therefore appreciate everyone cooperating by ensuring that everyone returns to their cars swiftly. It is inevitable that when parents chat, children like to run around the school grounds (understandably). However, this does heighten the risk of bubble mixing and potential virus spread..

Support our community

It is abundantly clear how keen we all are to return to all our normal routines and activities, even with one or two continued adjustments. However, as much as we all want this, we still all have a vital role to play in ensuring that each set date within the Government's road map comes into fruition.

The Prime Minister stated that prior to each of the pre-set dates for each stage of coming out of our current lockdown, that any release into the next phase will only happen if the data states it is advisable to do so. As a school community we not only need to support the country's road map out of lockdown but we need to ensure everyone is supporting school staff and keeping them safe by following the guidance and refraining from mixing unless absolutely essential.

Covid has not gone away and is still circulating. We continue to ask that you keep children at home and isolate if they or any member of your family shows any symptom of coronavirus. Getting a test is still a priority. Please do inform us of any illness or positive testing results so that we can then rapidly action isolation of either individuals or class bubbles. We must do all we can to continue to suppress the virus spread.

It is very clear that currently the only significant change to this lockdown is that on March 8th schools and most colleges will open to ALL children. The lockdown rules to stay home still apply to us all. Please see below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963491/COVID-19_Response_-_Spring_2021.pdf



There is one outcome we all want from the road map set out yesterday, and that is for it to work, and for us to reunite with friends and family near and far. Here in school we long for the days when our Year 6 can meet their buddies and spend time with them, for sports days, school productions, residentials, summer fetes etc, to all be part of our normality again.

Prayers

The reality of long Covid is very close to home and as many of you already know, within our school community. We continue to send Mrs McKenzie huge amounts of love from us all. Thank you to those who have sent cards and such kind messages of hope to her. We miss her terribly and continue to keep her in our prayers. It is a stark reminder that Covid affects people in many different ways.

We are all in this together, one for all and all for one.

With prayers and best wishes.

Mrs Bowditch

Please find below the changes that affect us as a school within the new Department of Education Guidance. I have included this within our updated Risk Assessment.

Department of Education updated guidance February 22nd 2021. *Mandatory Attendance*

Mandatory Attendance

*Attendance back in school is now **mandatory across all phases** – and the usual rules on school attendance will apply.*

The department of Education guidance states that the following areas will be prioritised as children return to school on Monday 8th March.

Reception: *Teachers will address gaps in “language, early reading and mathematics” and ensure a focus on “acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary”. Outdoor education opportunities should also be given a focus.*

Within Key stage 1 and 2: *Schools must “prioritise identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics), identifying opportunities across the curriculum so they read widely, and developing their knowledge and vocabulary.”*

The guidance also says the curriculum must be broad, too, so that “the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year, including sciences, humanities, music and the arts, physical education and sport, religious education and, at key stage 2, languages”.

Music, dance, drama and sport

It is also expected that schools “should continue teaching music, dance and drama as part of your school curriculum, especially as this builds pupils’ confidence and supports their wellbeing”, although there are numerous caveats around this, such as ideally holding events outdoors and socially distant and reducing the use of shared items.

Sporting activities can also take place but they should ideally be held “outdoors where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising natural ventilation flows (through opening windows and doors or using air-conditioning systems wherever possible), distancing between pupils, and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene”.

Team sports matches against other schools cannot take place until grassroots sports are permitted to return.