

Pucklechurch CE VC Primary School

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Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are no doubt aware, the government has announced its intention for all year groups to return to school full-time from the 8th March. We are really excited to be welcoming back all of our children to school in March and really can't wait to see everyone.

This letter will act as a reminder for how we are operating with some minor changes given recent changes to school. Our top priority will continue to be the safety of the children and our staff and whilst we desperately want to make the school as 'normal' as possible, we have to adhere to guidelines to ensure the risk to our children, staff and families is as low as possible. The way that we operate is subject to change as we constantly review risk assessments and also as we gain further guidance changes. We will always keep you as up-to-date as we can with these changes.

Hygiene

Children will continue to wash their hands with soap at the start and end of the day, before and after break times and lunchtimes and in between activities for no less than 20 seconds. This will be part of their daily timetable. Children are welcome to bring in hand sanitizer (that contains no less than 60% alcohol) this is fine, but it should be named, kept on their desk and a copy of the COSHH certificate for the product brought in (this can be found on the product's website).

Everyone is encouraged to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' – signs are in place to remind people to do this.

Staff may wear face masks, aprons and gloves at school, depending on circumstances – please mention this to your child in advance of returning to school in September.

Bubbles

We will be operating in year group bubbles which means the children will not mix for any activities and will stay within their year group. The bubbles will be kept apart from the other bubbles and children should be encouraged to keep their distance within groups. Siblings will be in their own year groups. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. Please ensure that your children are aware of the need for them to maintain this distance from adults and that they should avoid contact with other children.

Teachers and other staff can and will operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable but they will be maintaining 2 metres distance from children and other adults.

Gatherings

Year group bubbles should be kept apart, meaning that we cannot have large gatherings such as whole-school collective worship with more than one group. We will continue to do this on line as we have become accustomed to doing so. It also means we won't be holding any parent workshops until we are advised we can do so.

Paint markings on the floor outside are provided to support 2-metre distancing. Please ensure you are doing this.

Measures within the classroom

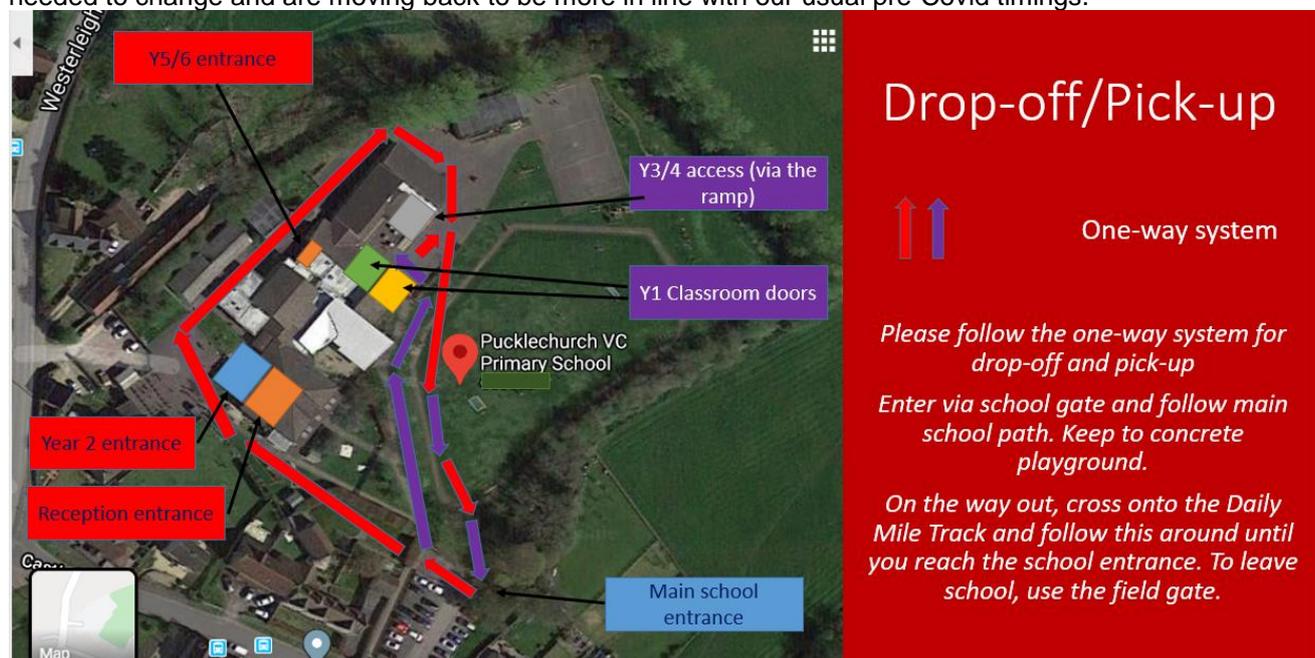
We have followed the guidelines and will make adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible. In our older year groups, children will continue to be seated side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on.

Aspire ~ Believe ~ Achieve

In classrooms, we will continue to follow the guidance of ensuring ventilation is in place (for example, by opening windows and keeping doors open when possible).

Measures for arriving at and leaving school

We will follow guidance and continue with staggered starts and finish times to ensure we minimise the numbers on site at one time. These have changed slightly as the locations of some of our classrooms has needed to change and are moving back to be more in line with our usual pre-Covid timings.



Drop off:

Reception can be dropped off from 850am
Key stage 1 can be dropped off from 845am
Key stage 2 from 840am.

The doors close in Reception at 9am, Key Stage 1 at 855am and in Key stage 2 at 850am. If you arrive after that time, please bring your child to sign in at the office.

Collection:

Key stage 1 collection is at 305pm
Reception and Key stage 2 collection is at 310pm.

Please do not come into the school grounds early so we can keep a steady flow of people moving and avoid gatherings.

Due to the fire, some classrooms are still out of use and we have had to make some changes.

Reception will be located in the old Year 1RF classroom (so they can have access to outdoor free flow provision).

Year 1 have been relocated to the two classrooms by the Key stage 2 ramp so should be collected and dropped off from there.

Year 2 will be in their usual room (these classes will need to follow the one-way system around the school to leave).

Year 3 and 4 remain unchanged.

Year 5 and 6 will therefore be entering the school at the back of the building using the external door to Key stage 2 (just along from the hall and opposite our reflection garden).

For your safety, please do not walk in the school carpark and do not park in the school, unless you have a badge to do so. We encourage all children to walk to school with their parents.

As no gatherings are permitted on school property, we do ask that parents vacate the site once they have picked their children up to enable school to keep a steady flow of people moving. Please do not wait for friends or allow your children to play in the school grounds after collection.

If children wear face masks to school they should be able to remove them independently. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all children), dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

We have been advised that the Crossing Patrol will be on duty.

Visitors

Contractors will continue to be asked to attend out of school hours where possible and there will no visitors allowed on the school premises. Any external education services such as Music tuition, road safety etc. will be in attendance and will be briefed on our risk assessment and will ensure social distancing from the children.

Homework

Homework will continue to be focused predominantly around Times Tables Rockstars, spelling practice and reading. Reading books will be sent home and reading records should come into school.

Communication

If you need to speak to a member of staff, please use email or phone the school rather than approaching them. This is to keep everyone safe and ensure a steady flow of people moving around the school. It is important that if your contact details have changed that school is made aware.

Playtime

Children will remain in their bubbles for lunchtimes and playtimes.

Equipment and resources

Children are given a pack of frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens and are asked not to share them. They should not bring in any equipment from home, e.g. pencil cases, pens etc.

Fruit and Toast

We are awaiting information as to when we will receive orders of fruit again and will let Key stage 1 know. Toast will not be sold. All children are able to bring a healthy snack if they wish to.

Bags

Please limit the amount of equipment children bring in – they do not need a bag but can use a plastic wallet to hold their reading book/reading record. They can bring a lunch box in.

Transport to school

Please continue to walk or cycle to school if at all possible. We would continue to encourage Year 6 to be escorted to school to ensure social distancing and stop bubbles crossing.

Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory again. Absences will be followed up and should be reported to school as usual.

Catering

There will be a normal provision of lunches for children and you can order lunches in the usual way. They will continue to have lunch in their classrooms or when the weather permits, outside.

First Aid

If children require any First Aid, this will be provided by staff who will wear gloves, aprons and masks.

School uniform

Children should return to wearing full school uniform. Children should be wearing red polo shirts, red jumpers/cardigan (with the school logo or not) with black/grey skirts/trousers/pinafore and black shoes.

Please ensure that children have got jumpers/coats to wear (both as part of their regular uniform and for PE), as they will be going outside as much as possible.

Children should continue to come to school with their hair tied back, where necessary.

PE Kits

Children will continue to wear their PE kits on their PE days. Please ensure that this is the correct PE kit. Children should be wearing red t-shirts and red jumpers (with the school logo or not) with black/navy

leggings/shorts/jogging bottoms with trainers. Please ensure that children are warm enough as they will be wearing this all day – for play, lunchtime and PE which will all take place outside, weather permitting.

Extra-curricular provision

First Sports will continue running breakfast club and will also be sending out details of some after school clubs available. They will continue to operate these by keeping children within their bubbles. They will send out information shortly about these and how to book on. .

Curriculum expectations

We understand that some of you and your children will feel anxious about a return to school. Please do rest assured that we are taking exceptional circumstances to make our school as safe as we can. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for all pupils and will also provide additional opportunities to support learning where this is required. We will continue to operate a Recovery Curriculum to support the children and their wellbeing.

Behaviour expectations

We will discuss our schools behaviour expectations with children on the 8th March and ensure that all children remember these. These will reinforce how we move around school, handwashing etc., but the children are very familiar with this by now.

Response to any infection

It is important that you need to be ready and willing to:

- Book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms. Children 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 that you or your child have been in close contact with if you/they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace;
- self-isolate if you or your child have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

We will continue to keep records of children in each group and staff along with any close contact that takes places between children and staff in different groups. We will not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.

If a member of staff or a child within a bubble tests positively, the whole bubble will close and have to self-isolate. This is why social distancing is so important so that we only have to close the bubbles directly affected should this happen.

We will keep in touch with you regularly but do call or e-mail us should there be something we haven't covered or anything you are concerned about. We review our risk assessment on a weekly basis and make any changes accordingly, which we will communicate to you.

We are delighted to have our Pucklechurch family back together again and we will do our very best to provide them with the education they deserve. Thank you all for your support.

Best wishes,



Mrs Capel