



Alverstone Church of England Junior School

Head Teacher: Mrs Clare Slowther B.A.(Hons.)
Deputy Head Teacher: Miss Marissa Ballard B.A.(Hons.)
Business Manager: Mrs Julie O'Brien

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As the prevalence of coronavirus has decreased, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and there is greater understanding about the measures needed to create safer environments in schools, we are now being asked to open to all children from September. From 7th September, attendance will once again become compulsory, with parents following usual procedures for reporting absences and fines in place for non-attendance. In order for us to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will look a little different for pupils as they return in September.

Following government guidance issued on 2nd July, we have now completed a health and safety risk assessment, incorporating all of the essential measures and recommendations, and are now in a position to confirm our plans for the start of term in September. This has been a lengthy process but I would like to thank you for your patience in giving us the time to ensure that we tailor plans for our children and our context.

September Plans

From the start of term our children will be in a 'class bubble' within a 'year group bubble' to assist with the use of shared spaces such as toilets, drop off and pick up times. The aim is to limit the contact that children have with different groups and does not primarily rely on enforcing social distancing within bubble classes, which will be very difficult with all children back in classroom. To keep different groups of children apart, staggered drop off and pick up times will be used, along with separate entrances and exits.

Children will be asked to enter and exit school either through the Tebourba Drive entrance or the Avenue entrance so that movement around the site can be managed. The bottom gate on Green Lane will remain closed until further notice. We have informed crossing patrols of the changes to start and finish times. Children will be able to bring bikes and scooters to school but will be asked to ensure social distancing when walking to and from the bike shed.

From Monday 7th September, start times will be as follows:

Years 3 and 4 - Start 8:50am - 9:00am

Years 5 and 6- Start 8:40am - 8:50am

All children will walk around to the back of school, passing through the green gate to the right of the building and on to their allocated entrance doors. Year 3 pupils will enter through the door adjacent to the library, Year 4 pupils will enter through doors by the side hall entrance, year 5 pupils will enter through the door next to the current 6JS classroom and Year 6 pupils will enter through the doors by the lodge. Doors will be clearly labelled and staff will be on duty outside to ensure that all children know where to go. Children will go straight into school on arrival and will be met by staff members who will

show them to their cloakroom and classroom. We ask that parents endeavour to ensure that children arrive on time to help us to reduce contact between groups. We are trying to limit parents on site, therefore please try to leave your child at the gate where possible and allow them to walk into school independently. We understand that this may be difficult with our younger children, so parents of new year 3 pupils or nervous year 4 pupils will be able to walk their child up to reception and say goodbye there. Please note that social distancing rules must be maintained on site.

We have liaised with Alverstoke Infant School to try to support families with children at both schools. Whilst collection times can easily be kept separate, start times do unavoidably overlap. The infant school are happy to be flexible with start times to accommodate this and have agreed that dropping pupils on time at the junior school can take priority.

From Monday 7th September, finish times will be as follows:

Years 3 and 4 - Finish 3:20pm

Years 5 and 6- Finish 3:10pm

Health and safety measures

The school will follow all statutory guidance and strict protective measures. Pupils will sit facing the front of class, in the same seat each day, with their own set of basic resources. Regular handwashing and good personal hygiene will be encouraged. There will be no free flow around the classroom and pupils will learn, eat and play in their class bubble group. Collective worship will be held in class as gathering of large groups will not be possible. Where resources are shared e.g. in PE and computing lessons, items will be cleaned between use by different groups.

Pupils will be able to bring bags, coats, hats, lunch boxes, PE kits and water bottles into school, but should not bring any non-essential items. Please could all children also bring in a small, inexpensive, empty plastic pencil case to be kept in school. This must be easily sanitised and should be big enough to hold 2 pencils, a pen, a glue stick, a rubber and some scissors. School will provide the required stationery items to go inside. Bags and PE kits will be kept in cloakrooms, which will only be accessed at staggered times. Lunch boxes and water bottles will be stored at their table and coats will be kept on the back of chairs. Usual school uniform should be worn. Please ensure that all belongings are named.

Pupils will have staggered break times and lunch times, playing only with the children in their class group, using their own group's set of resources. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms, with tables cleaned and hands sanitised both before and after eating. Our school kitchen will be fully open, however to limit movement around the school, children having school lunches will have food served in disposable packaging, with boxed food delivered to classrooms by our lunchtime team. An autumn term menu will be sent out to parents before the start of term. Meals can be paid for via Scopay in the usual way.

Toilet visits will be managed and supervised, with designated toilets for each year group. Toilets will be cleaned more regularly and the number of pupils using toilets at one time will be limited. Frequent handwashing and sanitising will be built into the daily routine.

Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. If your child has been wearing a face covering before arriving at school or college, it will be important that they understand how to remove it. The government has given the following guidance, "*Children and young people must wash their hands immediately on arrival at school or college, dispose of any temporary*

face coverings they may have been wearing 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.” Please provide your child with a plastic bag if a reusable face mask is to be used before and after school.

Measures regarding the limiting of staff inside bubbles have now been relaxed. The use of teachers to provide PPA cover and supply teachers to cover staff absence is now allowed. All teachers are following guidance regarding social distancing from pupils. Whilst teachers can now mark books and move around the classroom when necessary, they should aim to limit close contact with pupils and avoid face to face contact. This will be taken into account during lesson planning and the delivery of interventions.

To further limit the possibility of transmission of the virus, we need to limit the number of adults coming into the school reception. Please email or telephone the school office with enquiries if at all possible rather than coming into the building. Our office team will telephone parents to arrange a time to collect items such as uniform. If coming into school is unavoidable, we can only have one family in reception at a time; please check to see whether the reception space is clear before entering.

If you would like further details of the health and safety control measures in place in September, please view our detailed risk assessment, available on the school website. The government has also provided a summary of guidance for parents, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Children with specific medical conditions affecting attendance

It is vital that children return to school for their educational progress, their well-being and their social development. However, we are aware that some children have specific medical needs that may affect their ability to return to school. Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1st August, however children who remain under a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September. We will continue to provide home learning for pupils who are unable to attend school and will maintain regular contact with these families.

Behaviour

We are currently trialling a new behaviour policy that will run for the first half of the autumn term and then be reviewed. This includes new school rules and clear guidance regarding the expectations of children in relation to social distancing, hygiene and movement around school. Teachers will share this with children on the first day of school in September and further information will be sent to parents at the start of term.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have taken the decision to postpone the start of extra-curricular after school clubs until after half term. We will then review this in line with any additional guidance ready for a possible start to clubs in Autumn 2. We are currently looking into the feasibility of running peripatetic music lessons during school time from September. As pupils must be kept within their bubbles, this poses a number of challenges in terms of organising pupil groupings and staffing. We will be liaising with Hampshire Music Service and completing a separate risk assessment and will then be in touch with parents.

Pupils Displaying Symptoms

Pupils should not be sent to school and should isolate for 14 days if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. If a member of their household tests positive, they should also isolate for 14 days.

If a child in school develops coronavirus symptoms, they will be moved to the medical room and sent home straight away. As a school we must engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to [get a test](#) and you should inform us of the results of that test as soon as possible. After a negative result, a child can return to school once they feel well enough.

After a positive result, a child should stay off school for 7 days from the start of their symptoms. At this point the school will contact Public Health England (PHE) to risk assess and seek advice. It is likely that other pupils within this child's class group would then also be sent home for 14 days to self-isolate. Further confirmed cases in school would be referred to PHE who would give clear guidance regarding next steps for the school to follow.

For the safety of the whole school community, it will be vital that parents help us to implement these approaches and follow wider public health advice and guidance.

Supporting Children's Return

There is still time for the local and national context to change before September, but once we are able to confirm these plans in the days before we restart, we will send a social story to families showing the layout of school and explaining what will happen on the first day. Children thrive on routines, so we are aiming to establish daily routines as quickly as possible, however in the initial days and weeks we will place a greater emphasis on supporting children's mental health and well-being alongside the 'catch up curriculum' in English and maths and the launch of our new wider curriculum topics. Mrs Proost, our home school link worker/ELSA, will also be able to provide additional 1:1 and small group support for children where needed. Please let us know if you feel that your child would benefit from additional pastoral support with their return to school.

Updates over the Summer

After a very busy few months, with only limited breaks for school staff, the school site will be closed to all staff except for the site team from the end of July until the beginning of September. It will be important to ensure that everyone has a proper break ready for the long autumn term and whatever challenges it may bring. I too am hoping to have some time off to spend with my family, however both Julie in the office and I will be checking our emails intermittently to assist with any major difficulties or worries. We will send an email out to all parents on Thursday 3rd September to confirm these plans and provide any additional details.

We are all looking forward to seeing the children again in September, until then I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Yours sincerely,



Clare Slowther
Headteacher