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“Children don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

An update on the possible reopening of schools

Thank you for your patience while we waited for further information on reopening schools – the UK Government has now published more guidance and so, in this letter, we are able to summarise what we know so far.

To recap, **if** the Government thinks it is safe for schools to reopen from 1st June, then Christ Church will be expected to prioritise children in the following order:

- 1) Childcare Hub for the vulnerable children and the children of key workers
- 2) Nursery children who are 3 or 4 years old
- 3) Reception children
- 4) Year 1 children.

Parents do not have to send children back to school

The Government has made it clear that parents can choose to keep their children at home until the end of the school year. All absences this term will be authorised and existing home learning arrangements will continue for all children not attending school or nursery.

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning.

Children who are clinically vulnerable

If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to UK Government guidance* for further details of these groups.

Safety is our No.1 priority

We want to keep everyone safe – children, their families, nursery and school staff, and the wider community.

But, to keep children and adults safe, we will need to be strict about reducing social mixing in school and reminding everyone about social distancing.

All schools will have to make some very big changes to the way children, parents and staff do things from now on.

* *DfE Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings (updated 12th May 2020)*

The new normal will look and feel very different from what went before

- Each child will be part of a small “learning bubble” of around 10 children. This may not be with children from their usual class or in their usual classroom or even be with their usual adults. Each “bubble” will work with three members of staff over a two-week period.
- Each “learning bubble” of 10 children will have its own start and finish times. These will be different for different “bubbles” so that children will not mix.
- In the morning, children will line up with their adult (just one parent please) on the yellow “social distance” dots painted 2 metres apart on the pavement outside the school gate. The member of staff for the child’s “learning bubble” will collect children at the school gate and will then walk them to their classroom.
- No parents will be allowed past the school gates onto the school site unless they have made an appointment beforehand. (This is the Government’s rule.)
- Parents who are unwell should not drop off or collect children.
- Parents should also not gather at the school gates or on the grass at Tower View. Social distancing 2 metres apart will be expected at all times.
- Collection and drop-off times will need to be punctual. If your child will be late, please phone the school office and they will arrange a time for you to drop your child at the main gate.
- Children will be brought back to the school gate at home time, one “bubble” at a time.
- At the drop-off and pick-up “transition times” school staff will be wearing PPE.
- Lunch and break times will also be at different times so that “bubbles” do not meet.
- Every child needs to bring their own water bottle every day.
- There will be no hot dinners at lunchtime. So every child must bring in their own packed lunch every day. (We will not be providing daily FREE school meals to children but we can offer a FREE weekly food parcel for each Reception and Year 1 child attending school. Parents must then send in a packed lunch every day with their child.)
- Children must not bring in pencil cases, toys, book bags, reading books, rucksacks, PE kits or other items from home.
- Uniform does not need to be worn. Children should wear joggers/shorts, “sun safe” tops and trainers instead, so they can then do outdoor PE etc. without needing to change at school. Please note: children must wear a complete change of clean clothes every school day.
- Please make sure children are “sun safe” by putting sun cream on their face, neck, arms and legs before they come into school. All children must wear a sun hat.
- Children will need to bring their existing home learning packs with them. These will then be kept in school (rather than going back and forth each day).
- Our school Behaviour Policy is being updated to include expectations about “social distancing” and the other measures already mentioned in this letter.
- We will shortly be sending home a social story for you to talk through with your child that will help them to understand how and why school will be different, and why they will need to do things differently when they come back in.
- There will be increased cleaning in place and children will be required to wash and sanitise their hands regularly.
- All rooms will be ventilated as much as possible with doors and windows open.

- If a child becomes unwell at school, we will phone a parent and will expect the child to be collected immediately. (Whilst they are waiting to be collected, the child will be removed from their “bubble” to wait in another room.) Children and staff will be entitled to be tested for coronavirus.

You know what’s best for your child’s health and well-being

I want to reassure you again that we won’t be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what’s best for your child’s health and well-being.

We will keep you updated

We’ll provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening in the coming days and weeks.

Please keep us updated

From this point on, if you would like your child to begin attending the Childcare Hub, nursery or school again, we will need one week’s notice so that staffing for additional “learning bubbles” can be arranged.

Do you have any questions?

Please email us at Homelearning.sch152@educ.somerset.gov.uk if you have any questions, and we will respond as soon as we can.

Please email us to confirm your child’s place

But ... before you do this, it is important for me to stress that when you confirm to us that you would like your child to have a place in the Childcare Hub or in Nursery, Reception or Year 1, this will only be a provisional arrangement to start with.

We cannot promise that we will be able to accept all of the children whose parents want them to have a place. This is because if we need to accommodate extra key worker children, for example, we may then not have the space or the staff to accept Year 1 children at the same time.

Only once we have heard back from parents, and know how many children need places will we be able to say whether your child has a place and – if they do – which “learning bubble” they will be in.

So ... if you have asked for your child to attend, and you have read and understood this letter, please email us at Homelearning.sch152@educ.somerset.gov.uk to ...

- 1) tell us your child’s name
- 2) confirm that you still want your child to attend
- 3) let us know whether you would like to receive a FREE weekly food parcel.

Yours faithfully,



Rupert Kaye
Headteacher