



St. Denys Primary School

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Admin. Officer; Ms L. Mooney

Wednesday 10th June, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family are well. I am writing to you with details of how we will be welcome your child back to school. As mentioned in our previous email, we will only be able to do this on a part-time basis due to staff a lack of teaching staff capacity. In order to ensure safety and following Government guidelines, we can only bring children back to school in small groups 'Bubbles' as explained below and must ensure that there is sufficient classroom space for them to learn safely. Each 'Bubble' will attend school for three days per week, every other week. I am very sorry that we cannot make attendance full time but this is what we are able to do within the guidelines set.

We know how important it is that your child finishes their time at St Denys positively which is why we have arranged things so that they can have the maximum time in school that we can manage safely. The hardest thing for them is not being able to be with the whole class together but we will find a way of enabling them to communicate safely and to organise some of the traditional Year 6 Leavers Events (even if we have to do things within each Bubble). Government guidelines continue to change so we will update you more on this as soon as we are able.

Your child will be in Class 6 Bubble B which means that they will attend as follows: -

Week beginning Monday 22nd June – At home (learning will be provided)

Week beginning Monday 29th June – Monday Tuesday and Wednesday

Week beginning Monday 6th July – At home (learning will be provided)

Week beginning Monday 13th July - Monday Tuesday and Wednesday

We are having to put a number of things in place to make sure we are all safe and to limit the number of contacts both children and adults have during the day. I want to reassure you that whilst we are changing how we have to operate, our priority is providing a warm welcome back into school.

Attendance

The latest Government guidance encourages parents to send their children back to school when the schools open but at this stage, no action will be taken if parents do not feel able to at this time. We will have to take the registers as normal so any children not here will be counted as an authorised absence.

'Bubble' Groups

We are splitting those Class 6 children currently at home into two small teaching groups 'bubbles' (A and B) and they will be with the same children and the same adults all day. Mrs Boddington will be teaching them on a Monday and Mr Fielder on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr Howard will be liaising with Mrs Boddington and Mr Fielder but is already teaching the 12 children from Class 6 who have been attending throughout. The focus for the time they are back in school will be on mental health and well-being as well as work on transition to secondary school.

Safety Arrangements

We will be doing all we can to keep everyone safe and happy. We have undertaken a thorough risk assessment and planned to minimise risks as much as possible. Whilst social distancing is the main strategy used with older children and adults, it is recognised that this is not always feasible with younger children. This is why we are: -

- teaching and remaining in smaller groups
- re-organising classrooms to provide wider space between the children
- ensuring that there is frequent handwashing
- teaching outside as much as possible
- limiting the sharing of resources so that children have individual resources to use rather than sharing
- teaching them how to learn and play safely
- limiting adults on site to only those who are essential
- ensuring that anyone who has symptoms stays away from school and self isolates for 14 days unless it is confirmed they do not have Covid19.
- ensuring that if anyone display symptoms in school, they will be isolated from other people and sent home

Staggered Start and End of the Day

We are altering start and end times Only one parent/adult per family is allowed on site and must remain outside the school building. All families are asked to stand at least 2 metres apart as per social distancing guidelines. Class 6 should arrive between 9.00am and 9.10am and will need to be picked up at 3.00 pm. Entrance for Class 6 will be through the main gate. It is essential that you stick to the times provided so that we can avoid any congestion.

Uniform

As we are aware how much children will have grown and to make washing easier, children can come to school in their own clothes with sensible shoes they can run around in eg trainers. They will not need PE kits. We ask that all children bring to school is their water bottle.

Lunch/Water Bottles

We are only able to provide lunches for those children entitled to Free School Meals (a packed lunch). All other children will need a packed lunch in a disposable container/bag. They will picnic in the classroom or hopefully outside if the weather is good. Please can children bring their own water bottles.

Curriculum

We will be teaching a curriculum that very much meets the needs of the children and builds on the experiences they have been having at home. This will be focused on supporting emotional well-being, learning to be together again as well as supporting basic skills and reading/phonics. We are having to reduce the number of things going between home and school so as above, only bring in their water bottle and a packed lunch.

I want to thank you and the children for your patience and understanding. It feels like Year 6 have waited a long time for their return but we will do all we can to make their remaining time with us memorable. If you do have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Amanda Talbot-Jones

Headteacher, St Denys Primary School