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15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements 2020-2021 Academic Year Tysoe CE Primary School

We are delighted that we are able to welcome back all our children in Years 1-6 from September and that our new Reception children will also be joining us.

You will be aware that the government has issued some guidance to schools regarding schooling in September. We have spent a long time analysing it and applying it to our school situation. Each school is unique in its staffing, buildings, class arrangements and many other aspects so the government have instructed that schools have the flexibility to make decisions that work in their context, based on their risk assessments. The measures in place build on the successful steps taken so far this year at our school which have gained the confidence of staff, parents and pupils. The full guidance can be found here [DfE Guidance for full opening - schools Published 2 July 2020](#).

Pending governors' approval at a meeting later this week, we are now able to inform you of the arrangements for all pupils to start at our school in September. For everyone's safety and well-being we ask you to read this letter very carefully and keep a copy for your records for September.

Attendance Arrangements

A slight change to arrival and departure times and arrangements will allow us to safely see the children in and out of school whilst maintaining social distancing.

Parents and children are asked to enter via School Lane between 8:45am and 8:55am and keep right when walking please. This will create a walking loop to allow all parents space to distance from others. **Please do not park or turn vehicles in School Lane for the safety of all of our children and families.**

Children in Years 1-6 will be greeted by a staff member at the metal carpark gate. KS1 children will be directed to their lines and KS2 children will make their way directly to their classrooms where their teacher will be waiting and they can wash their hands ready to begin learning.

Reception children will enter via School Lane, any older siblings will be dropped off at the carpark gate, and then parents will continue along the narrow pathway between the Church and the school to the marked gate. The Reception children will be met here by the staff and parents will be able to continue along the path toward Saddledon Street.

Parents will be able to collect their children between 3:20pm and 3:30pm from the same gates. Your children will be sent to meet you and we ask parents to again keep right to make a walking loop as you collect your children.

We recognise that we begin the new academic year in a way none of us could have envisaged at the start of March. However, please be assured we are as dedicated as ever to providing the best education and care for your children as we can, in a safe environment. We want all pupils and staff to be back in school, and believe the conditions are right for this. We have attached some Frequently Asked Questions to this letter which hopefully will answer any questions you have.

We will continue to update you with developments as they arise and our school website will continue to be updated across the summer holidays. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Yours sincerely,

Lindsey Oscroft
Executive Headteacher

Paige Neale
Head of School

Larry Granelly
Chair of Governors

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Based on the responses and queries we have had over the last few weeks, we have put together these frequently asked questions to help you:

Does my child have to attend school?

Yes, all children are welcomed to school from Wednesday 2nd September. Reception children will have a phased start as indicated in previous letters to them. The government have stated that attendance is compulsory. We want to work closely with our families so please email the office with any concerns.

Will you be checking children's temperatures on arrival?

In line with the guidance, we will not be temperature testing the children in September but would strongly suggest you do so at home before coming to school as well as washing hands. Face masks are not to be worn by the children. If your child wears a mask on the bus, this will need to be removed as they enter school.

What are the arrangements for hand washing?

The children will continue to wash hands on entry and throughout the day. We also have a large quantity of hand sanitiser available.

What are the cleaning arrangements?

The tables will be cleaned at lunchtime and after school. Other contact points such as light switches and door handles will be cleaned with antibacterial solution several times throughout the day. Any iPads or class PCs that are used will be cleaned before and after use. The children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day including before and after break times. Toilets and other shared facilities will also be cleaned regularly throughout the day.

Will my child be in their own classroom?

Your child will be in their new classroom and will have access to the playgrounds and field as usual.

What about social distancing?

Classrooms will be organised to ensure that children stay apart as much as is possible in a school setting. The staff will remind the children of social distancing expectations regularly. Children will not be sharing resources and they will have a named pack of stationery that is just for them. The children will spend plenty of time outside as well.

Will my child be with their class adults?

Your child will be with their new class adults but they will be reminded to keep their distance. We will still be covering teachers PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) lessons with the same staff members each week. Where the guidance states that staff will remain two metres away from others, this is not possible in all cases, nor desirable, particularly with younger children.

What are bubbles and how will they work?

The children will be taught in their usual classes in lesson time. However, schools have the flexibility to make a decision that works in their context, based on their risk assessments. If that means that schools are unable to deliver a full curriculum or operate effectively, they are free to increase the bubble to the size of a whole year group, for example for PE lessons. Some schools may decide to have bubbles that have more than one year group in where they already operate on that basis and increase the size of the bubble outside the classroom. We have decided to do this at Tysoe to ensure all children have the opportunity to maintain social interaction and friendships, especially where a year group is split across two classes.

Do children have to sit in rows facing the front?

No. The Department for Education's (DfE's) guidance suggests that pupils sat facing the front is one measure schools could take; it is not mandatory. The idea is that by not having pupils facing each other directly (ie facing the front instead), it reduces the risk of spreading the virus via respiratory droplets. However, each classroom varies in size and layout so we have done our best to allow as much space as possible between pupils.

As a school we have decided that such an approach is inappropriate in the Infant Classes and indeed would prevent us from delivering the EYFS curriculum in Reception.

We are a very small school. Can we have a whole-school bubble?

The DfE has not set a specific upper limit on the number of pupils within a bubble. The general principle is that schools should keep bubbles as small and consistent as they can. If you can split the school into smaller bubble sizes, this is recommended, even if it is only for part of the time. However, if making bubbles too small has a significantly negative impact on your ability to operate your school or run a full and balanced curriculum, the bubbles can be larger than the size of a class. Ultimately, these are decisions that should be reflected in a school's risk assessment. Indoors we will maintain class bubbles wherever possible but outdoors we will be maintaining key stage bubbles.

What about playtimes and lunchtimes?

We recognise the importance of social interaction for all our pupils as well as their physical health needs. At playtimes and lunchtimes we will use the field as much as possible in allocated areas for key stages.

How do I explain to my child what school will look like?

We have produced child friendly booklets for the children and these will be sent to you to share at home.

Will my child need to wear uniform?

Yes. The children will return to school in uniform however we understand how expensive some uniform is and with the current financial climate, do not have an expectation that the children must wear jumpers, cardigans or PE t-shirts with the school logo on them. Plain red jumpers and cardigans and plain white PE t-shirts are sufficient.

Will my child get a school lunch if they want one?

Yes, the children can order a deli bag if they are in school. Children in Years R-2 will get a free infant school meal each day. If you receive Universal Credit in Years 3-6 and are registered for free school meals your child will also receive a free school meal. Payment for lunches will be taken via ParentPay. Login details and set up information for ParentPay will be sent to you. The cost is £2.60, which will be reviewed later in the Autumn term.

We are currently unable to provide fruit snacks as deliveries have been suspended. We do not yet know when these will be reinstated and suggest you provide a morning snack for your child.

Can my children in Years 1 to 6 have Free School meals if they are entitled and not in school?

No – there will be no voucher system after the school holidays have finished.

Will the staff wear PPE?

DFE guidelines do not recommend PPE equipment however some staff may choose to wear a mask and gloves. When staff are dealing with first aid or children who may become ill, they will wear PPE. It would be helpful to explain what this might look like to your child. We will not be checking the temperature of all pupils before they enter school from September but relying on parents to make a sensible decision to not send a sick child to school.

Can staff still deliver 1:1 and group interventions with pupils?

Yes, they can. Staff who are working with pupils across different bubbles are advised to take additional precautions. For example, remaining 1m+ apart if possible and avoiding close face-to-face contact.

What about wrap around care/before and after school clubs?

Current government guidance states that wrap around care providers will need to maintain the same bubbles wherever possible or take steps to keep bubbles as small and consistent as possible. We are awaiting further communication from Tysoe Children's Group. We have a dedicated entrance for the Walking Bus to ensure the children can be safely seen in and out of school.

In order to protect bubbles, there will be no staff run after school clubs in the first half term at least. However, we have secured two after school clubs from Aspire. Obviously, these can only be offered to a key stage at a time to prevent mixing bubbles.

What happens if a child or staff member at school develops symptoms?

PROCEDURE IF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS

- Child to wait in staffroom, if possible behind a closed door with adult supervision, until a parent is able to collect. Staff member to go straight home.
- One member of staff to stay with the child and use PPE.
- Parents to wait at the car park gate for child to be handed over.
- Child/staff member to be tested for Covid 19 and stay at home until results are available. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is under 5.
- If results are negative then they may return to school.
- If results are positive then the rest of the children and staff in that 'bubble' will be sent home with the Government advice to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that 'bubble' do not need to self-isolate unless a child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.
- Should this happen you will need to inform the school.
- The school will contact Public Health England for further advice.

What happens if I or someone in my household develops symptoms?

Please let the school know as soon as possible and you will need to follow the Government guidelines. To arrange a test, you need to call 119. Full guidance here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/what-to-do-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms/>

What happens if there is an outbreak at school and the bubble is sent home?

The children have access to Teams via their school login and the staff will be sharing with the children how to access this when they return. If needed, home learning will be shared via Teams and the children will also have access to their new class email address to communicate with their teacher. Feedback to emails or Teams learning will be shared within the week.

What are the guidelines for social distancing at home?

We ask parents and carers to follow the social distancing guidelines set out by the government. This will help us to minimise the risks to the children and staff in each bubble. Currently, the government advise that no more than six people from different households are to meet in open spaces such as parks or gardens. Local guidelines for using playgrounds should be followed.

Will my child be going on any school trips?

Until further guidance is issued, the school will not be going on any trips other than within Tysoe itself where transport is not needed. This will be communicated to you separately if it occurs.

What will my child need to bring each day?

We will be providing all pens, pencils and books etc. On their allocated PE days children will need to come to school in their PE kit. (They may wear shorts under their jogging bottoms, clean trainers and their school jumpers on top of their PE shirt.) KS2 can bring *1 small bag* with their packed lunch (if needed) and their reading book and Reading Record. KS1 will need a book bag please. They need to bring a filled water bottle, a coat and a sunhat. **Clothing items must be named as everything will need to be returned home.**

How will reading books and Reading Records work?

It is essential that we ensure children are still reading. Therefore we need to safely reintroduce Reading Records and reading books. On a Friday morning, please return your child's reading books to school in their book bag and they will be left in a 'dropbox' for 72 hours in line with government guidance. Your child will receive their new books on a Monday to take home. Please wipe the books before returning them and also the same for the reading records if they are being used in your child's classroom. More information on this will be available in September.

Will my child be taught the full curriculum?

Yes as much as possible. However there will be a clear focus on key skills in English and Maths so more time will be given over to this.

Will my child be going swimming?

Not for the first half term at least as we are awaiting further guidance and communication from the leisure centre given the recent announcements.

My child has not been to school since March and I am reluctant to send them. What do I do?

Please email the school and we will arrange a telephone call to discuss this further. Full attendance is expected in the Autumn term.

My child pays for individual music lessons. Will these resume in September?

These will resume in September but with some additional cleaning, spacing and procedures in place.

How will the school lead Collective Worship and assemblies?

This will be done in a variety of ways. We will use technology, have assemblies in our own classroom and have one key stage in the hall at a time if possible. Parents and families will not be able to attend celebration events as yet.

How will PE be taught?

As mentioned earlier in the letter, pupils are to come in their PE kit on PE days. PE will involve non-contact sports but otherwise will be as normal as possible. All equipment will be cleaned before and after use. Aspire coaches will return to school in the Autumn and full risk assessments have been completed.

What are the arrangements for homework from September?

Homework will now be posted on Teams and we expect children to upload their work there too where possible. This will reduce children taking things into school and bring things back. The children will have a homework but may not need to use it every week. We have invested in some new online resources and these will be shared with the children in September.

What is being done regarding 'catch up'?

Current class teachers have done a full handover to the new teacher about your child. We have also made assessments over the last few months using online evidence and the discussions we have had with you. We will continue to assess children within the first four weeks to gauge gaps in learning and our curriculum will be adapted to the needs of the pupils. We will also release staff in order for them to work with small groups to help this catch up. More details will be given in the Autumn.

My child has an EHCP. What arrangements are there to discuss these arrangements?

In September, we will make contact with the parents and carers of those children who have an EHCP. Mrs Ballard is our SENCo.

How will my child receive prescribed medication at school?

Send your child's in date inhaler or other medication with them to school with instructions on dosage. We cannot give antibiotics at the moment but will support long term health requirements. Contact the school office for any queries.

Will volunteers and visitors resume attending school?

At this point no volunteer helpers will be able to come into school in September. In instances where we need to use other essential professionals, such as social workers, speech and language therapists or professionals to support the delivery of a child's education, health and care (EHC) plan, we will assess whether the professionals need to attend in person or can do so virtually. If they do need to attend in person, we will ensure they follow the protective measures in the school and the number of attendances will be kept to a minimum.

I am worried about providing food this summer for my family, who can I contact?

Families may be entitled to **benefits related FSM**. If you have a change in financial circumstances over the summer you can apply for Free School Meals at any time online through the Parent Portal

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals> or call Customer Service Centre: on 01926 359189 (Mon – Thu: 9am – 5pm, Fri: 9am – 4:30pm)

Shipston Foodbank- If for whatever reason you find yourselves short of food through the summer holidays, please don't hesitate to contact the foodbank on 01608 661210. Please also contact Rev. George Heighton at St Mary's Church.

Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme- The Government do not expect families who are receiving summer food vouchers to also be accessing the local welfare scheme. However, if you are still struggling financially, you may apply to the local welfare scheme to see if you are eligible for any further financial support.

Tel: 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182 or by emailing warwickshirelocalwelfarescheme@warwickshire.gov.uk

Is there any other independent advice available for families over the summer?

The Family Information Service (FIS) is a brilliant 'One Stop Shop' for all sorts: parenting advice, housing, finances etc.

For further support you can contact the Family Information Service (Telephone: Family Information Service - 01926 742274; email Family Information Service: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk; webpage : <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>)

How do I contact school if I have a query?

The school office and site remains closed to parents and carers to comply with our risk assessment. All questions and queries can be emailed to admin3068@welearn365.com and they will be directed to the appropriate staff member. Or you are welcome to telephone the school office between 8:30am and 4pm.

How will I make payments for dinners?

Any dinner money or other payments will be collected via ParentPay from September. Further details and login information will be sent to you shortly.

Will the school buses be running in September?

Yes, the bus service will be operating as usual. We are awaiting updated Health and Safety guidance from the Transport Team and will direct this to parents as soon as possible.