



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

To strive for respect, enjoyment and excellence for all!

08.07.2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have looked forward to writing this letter since 23rd March! I am delighted to inform you that school will fully re-open on Monday 7th September to all of our children. Although it has been lovely to see the small groups of children over the last weeks, we have missed seeing all of our children. We can't wait to see you all.

Staff will be working hard to ensure that we all follow the Government guidance issued last Thursday which includes seating children facing towards the front of the classroom, class bubbles, staggered break and lunchtimes, arrival and exit times (please see below). We are also making some huge changes downstairs for our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children as the guidelines are clear about separate Year group bubbles. We are also creating a continuous provision area for Year 1 (current Reception) as they will have missed a whole term of the EYFS curriculum. Those who live close to school will notice the necessary building work making these changes over the summer break.

How will school be the same as before lockdown?

- Attendance is mandatory and the attendance procedures will be followed as before. Parents and carers will be expected to bring children in punctually at the times listed below and contact school if a child is absent. As shielding finishes in August, ALL children should be in school unless they are ill or self isolating following a Covid test. If parents and carers choose to keep children off school because they are anxious about Covid, then the guidance is clear that school must encourage families to send their children into school. If families refuse, then school will have no option than to contact the Education Welfare Service and Social Care. In these instances, please remember that school staff are following the Government and Local Authority guidelines. If a child is considered to be clinically vulnerable, they should still attend school as appropriate social distancing measures are in place. Please could families contact school if you consider a child to be in this category e.g. severe asthma (severe asthma = medication in addition to a brown/blue inhaler or the child requires an annual flu jab)
- Children should wear school uniform and will need PE and games kits.
- Breakfast Club will be available from 7th September and I am delighted to offer this to Reception children upwards. School will send out information regarding after school clubs during the second week of term.



- Packed lunches can be brought into school in lunchboxes as before and hot meals will be provided.
- Cloakrooms will be open and each class will have their own designated area in each cloakroom. So school bags, coats, pencil cases etc. can be brought in as before but stationery cannot be shared.
- Children will be taught in full classes (or bubbles) in their new classrooms apart from Y4 (as they are a small class of 22 and will stay in their current classroom). Y3 will move to the current Y5 classroom as this room is much bigger and it is a class of 30.
- Lessons will be taught, work will be marked etc. as before. Homework will also be given, including reading, spellings and times tables.

How will school be different?

To maintain class bubbles and to enable adults to socially distance, children will arrive at school and leave school at different times. It is essential that parents and carers stick to these times to avoid a large number of parents and children congregating on the yard. Staff will come to the entrance at the agreed time, ask the children to line up and then take the children into school. At the end of the school day, staff will stand at the exits and release children when they see their parent or carer as before.

Year Group	School Starts	School Finishes	Entrance	Yard
Nursery	8.50	3.00	EYFS small play area doors	KS1
Reception	8.50	3.00	Ramped entrance near Y1	KS1
Year 1	8.50	3.00	Door near Y2 (Talbot St side)	KS2
Year 2	8.50	3.00	Door near Oxford St	KS2
Year 3	8.40	3.15	Door near Y2 (Talbot St side)	KS2
Year 4	8.40	3.15	Ramped entrance near Y1	KS1
Year 5	8.40	3.15	Door near Oxford St	KS2
Year 6	8.30	3.15	Arrival: Door near Oxford St	KS2
			Exit: EYFS small play area doors	KS1

Please enter and exit the KS1 yard through the large gates. When using the KS2 yard, please follow the one way system; please enter using the gate on Oxford St and exit using the gate on Talbot St. When waiting for children, please stay behind the cones.

- Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered and, to enable this to take place, lunchtime has been reduced by 15 minutes. As lunchtime will be starting later for our older children, children will need a snack for playtime. As an example, Y6 arrive at school at 8.30 and won't be eating until 12.45 (which is similar to before as that used to be the 'last sitting') so a mid-morning snack is essential. During the Autumn Term, Year 2 will use the Junior Yard for playtime. Breakfast Club will be open (£1 a day) and break time snacks will be available to purchase for 50p a day from Breakfast Club staff.



- As is usual at the start of a new year, children will have the opportunity to take part in ‘settling in, mental health and well-being’ activities which will be particularly crucial as the majority of our children will not have been in school since March. Also, staff have identified key learning objectives that children have missed and these will be focused on throughout September in all areas of the curriculum. Your children will be busy!
- At the front of each classroom is a 2 metre demarcation which teachers and teaching assistants will stay behind as adults are expected to socially distance even though children are not. Staff working with small groups can only do so for 15 minutes at a time so supporting children in lessons, particularly those with SEND, will be challenging. Children will each have their own stationery packs and any resources that are shared will be cleaned at the end of the day before passing to another bubble.
- School has contingency plans should the Government raise the alert level and issues instructions for a partial or full lockdown in the event of a cluster of Covid cases or if we have a positive test result at school resulting in a class bubble sent home to self isolate. This includes a 14 day Blended Learning Offer (2 week learning pack).
- Whole school assemblies in the hall are not possible so assemblies will be held on a Monday and Friday using Zoom. Our aim is to enable parents to join these Zooms on Fridays for sharing assemblies. I will share more information about this when we have this up and running successfully.
- The children have missed Golden Time so staff will introduce a Golden Time Carousel which will maintain class bubbles.
- To protect staff when handling cash, St Andrews is signing up to ‘Parent Pay’ where parents and carers will be able to play dinner money, trips etc online. I know that the majority of schools now do this. Please bear with us while we introduce this system.

A final reminder – school closes on 16th July and reopens on Monday 7th September. One more week of free school meal vouchers for families entitled to free school meals have been ordered. Codes will be sent to emails 1st September for the additional week.

9.30 18th September we are relaunching ‘Friends of St Andrews’. If you are interested in supporting our school by organising events and fundraising, then please feel free to attend the meeting. I ask that you let school know if you intend to come to the meeting so school can organise the meeting using social distancing measures.

If you have any questions about any of the information above, please contact school. I realise that it is a lot to process and take in. Thank you for your continued support, have a lovely summer and we look forward to welcoming you all back on 7th September.

God bless,

Joanne Bladen-Kay
Head Teacher

