

Littledean Church of England Primary School

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Loving one another, building each other up

14th July 2020

Dear Parents

We are very pleased to be able to start planning for all of the children returning to school in September and being able to get back to a new type of normal. In order to make this possible there are still a number of government guidelines that we are required to follow in order to ensure that the return to school is as safe as possible for all concerned. With this being the case we will need to implement a number of changes to our normal routines which will be outlined in this rather lengthy letter.

Class Bubbles

From September the requirement to only have 15 children in a group/bubble has been removed. We are still however required to keep the children in larger class bubbles. This means that the children will only associate with children in their class. They will have playtimes as a group and also lunchtime. They are allowed to use the same toilets as children in other bubbles but mixing between the bubbles will not be allowed to happen.

The children from Year 3 up will be sat in rows in their classroom, facing forwards in order to minimise face to face contact. This is impractical for children in the infants so instead they will be spread out as much as possible activities adapted to ensure that there are opportunities to clean resources between groups.

Curriculum

There has been a lot of coverage in the media about the need for children to 'catch up' on missed learning due to the lockdown. As a school staff we also believe that this is hugely important but not to the detriment of providing a broad and balanced curriculum which takes into account children's social and emotional needs as well as their academic ones. With this being the case we intend to assess the children when they return to school to find out what their gaps in learning are and will then build a curriculum around what it is that they need to know. We will continue to teach subjects such as art, history and science and embed English and mathematical skills within these where possible.

There has also been much talk about 'catch up funding' and 'tutoring' and a substantial amount of money has been made available by the government to fund this. At the time of writing this letter we have not been told when we will receive the funding or how much it will be. As soon as we find out this important information we will be able to plan how best to use the money to support the children's learning and development.

School Start and Finish Times

In order to keep the number of people on the school site to a minimum we will need to implement staggered a start and end for the school day.

Class	Start Time	Finish Time
Pre-School	8.45	2.45
Holly Leaves	9.00	3.20
Holly Berries	8.50	3.10
Chestnut	8.40	3.00
Maple	8.30	2.50

For those children who are new to Reception for the first few weeks in September they will be following their transition timetable which has been sent separately. Where families have siblings in different classes we appreciate that staggered start and finish times are not practical so would ask that you choose one of the start times and finish times indicated above and drop off/pick up all siblings at that time – the teachers will be available in their classes to receive them and see them out. We will be operating a 'drop and go' policy and would ask that once you have dropped off/picked up your child that you leave the school site as quickly as possible as space in the back playground is limited.

Children will enter and leave through their normal class doors. We will not be allowing any entry to the school through the front entrance. If your child is late for school and the classroom door is closed then please take them to the school office as normal.

Lunchtime

For at least the first term we will not be offering hot school dinners. We ask that the children bring a packed lunch to school or one can be ordered from Caterlink. Children in the infants who are entitled to Universal Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch from Caterlink, or you can provide them with one if you would prefer.

Lunchtimes will operate on staggered basis with each class having their lunch and playtime separate to the other classes.

Uniform

We expect that in September all children will wear their school uniform as normal.

PE

In order to minimise close contact in confined spaces like cloakrooms we are asking that children wear their PE kit to school on the day that they have PE. It is acceptable for children to wear jogging bottoms if the weather is cold, their house coloured t-shirt, school jumper/cardigan and trainers/daps.

Class	PE Day
Holly Leaves	Monday
Holly Berries	Wednesday
Chestnut	Tuesday
Maple	Thursday

Visitors to School

We will be limiting the number of visitors to school to essential visitors only.

Hygiene Measures

Rigorous hygiene practices will be in place across the school. Children will be required to wash their hands when they arrive at school and also before leaving to go home. They will also wash their hands at various intervals throughout the day. Resources and equipment will be washed thoroughly between uses.

Contact with School Family Support Worker (Mrs Webb)

Due to limiting the number of visitors to the school site Mrs Webb will not be meeting face to face with parents. She will continue to work with families using the remote methods that have worked so well during lockdown. Mrs Webb's contact details are:

swebb@littledean.gloucs.sch.uk

Tel: 07309945995

Mrs Webb will continue to work with the children that she supports and we are working through what this will look like and will let you know as soon as possible what the arrangements will be.

Reading Books and Resources

The children will be provided with their own resources which they will keep in a pack to only be used by them. Some resources like mathematical equipment may need to be shared but will be thoroughly cleaned between uses.

We will be sending reading books home as this is an essential part of children learning to read and also developing a love of reading. We will send home a reading record for you to keep at home and record when you listen to them read. We ask that this does not come back into school as class teachers will keep their own records. When your child brings a reading book back into school it will need to be 'quarantined' for 48 hours before we can send it home with another child. This will obviously have an impact on the number of reading books available and we ask that you bear with us as we try to manage our resources as effectively as possible.

Children must not bring in any objects from home such as toys etc... When they come into school the only items that they will need to bring with them are coat, packed lunch and reading book.

Homework

Due to the issues around sending paper back and forth between school and home we will be setting homework a little differently. We will still be providing a homework grid with a selection of activities however this will be published on the school website. We ask that children either complete the homework activities on paper and then parents photograph it and send to the class email account or complete it on a computer and email to class teacher. If this is really challenging then as a last resort homework could be completed on paper and sent into school but the class teacher will not be able to send it back home.

We are intending to implement a remote learning platform which will make completion and submission of homework much easier. We will be able to give you more information on this in September.

Letters

From September there will be no paper letters sent home. They will be emailed to all parents and a copy put on the school website: www.littledeanprimary.co.uk. It is essential that we have your correct, up-to-date email address to ensure that this system works effectively.

Permission forms will have to be submitted electronically and we will advise you in September how this will be managed.

Holiday Requests

We understand this may be upsetting for some families but the government guidance remains very clear that we cannot authorise holiday requests so any requests that are submitted will not be authorised.

Covid-19 Symptoms

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough

- a high temperature

- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19. Further guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We appreciate that this is a lot of information to take on board and it is possible that some of this might change if the government guidance changes during the summer holidays. At the moment we believe that these measures will go a long way towards making school a safe environment for all concerned and we are determined that when all the children return to school we will still maintain the family feel that we are so proud of.

We would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding as we navigate our way through these new procedures. We hope that you all have a lovely summer holiday and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Yours sincerely

Hayley McGoldrick
Head Teacher