



## SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

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Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Reminder of information about returning to school on March 8th:

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our children back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We have updated our risk assessment from last term and the Department of Education have produced a parent's guide with further information on [What parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#) which can be accessed by following this [link](#). We are very much aware that the children will need a great deal of support as they return to the classroom, much as they did when returning to school in September, and staff are preparing to ensure that this return is an equally positive experience for all. If you feel that your child needs some form of additional support, please do contact their classteacher and we will help you in every way that we can.

### Organisation of the School Day:

**Pick-up and Drop-off:** to reduce mixing and transition, we continue to have a staggered start and end to the day and the timings are below:

**Drop Off**- one parent/carer only.

Surname A - K - 8.40am - 8.50am

Surname L - Z - 8.50am - 9.00am

Please maintain social distancing (a 2m distance) from staff and other parents/carers at drop off. If you have any queries or concerns please email the school office and the classteacher will respond.

**Pick Up** - one parent / carer only Surname A - K - 3.00pm - 3.10pm

Surname L - Z - 3.10pm - 3.20pm

Please adhere to your allocated time slot and leave the school site immediately after collecting your child.

We continue to have a **one-way system** on the school site - please enter the playground via the Nursery gate and follow the one-way system around the building and drop off at your child's classroom, then leave via the front gate next to the school office. Please can we ask that all visiting adults continue to wear a mask or face covering when on the school site.

To maintain social distancing please do not gather at the school gates.

**Playtimes and lunchtimes** will be staggered and areas of the yard/field zoned to allow for separation of class groups.

**Control measures** which promote good hand and respiratory hygiene as well as cleaning regimes will remain in place. We still have additional outdoor handwash stations and our cleaning staff will also continue with additional cleaning routines in the middle of the day.

Maintaining distinct class groups/bubbles makes it easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate.

In the event of one positive test we will need parents to support us in reducing the possibility of an outbreak by engaging in the **NHS Test and Trace** process. Parents will need to be ready to book a test if their child develops symptoms and self-isolate if they are contacted by Test and Trace. Please inform us immediately of the results of a test. The Public Health Protection Team will then direct school to take the appropriate actions.

**School Meals** - the kitchen are providing the normal **Primary School Menu** (available to view on the homepage of our school website in the Newsletters section) and it will be **Week 1** when the children return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We plan to stagger lunches and use a mixture of the dining hall and classrooms to keep year group bubbles separate. Children who choose to have packed lunches, should bring these in as they did before Christmas.

**School Uniform** - children will need to wear school uniform (including flat, black school shoes) and bring their P.E. kits to school.

**Book Bags** - while we are not encouraging children to bring things into school from home, we would like them to bring their Book Bags with their reading books in. When changing their reading books in school we have a quarantine system to ensure that books have a minimum of 72 hours in 'self-isolation' before returning to our shelves to be used again.

**After School Clubs** - we are currently making arrangements for after-school clubs to resume after the Easter Holidays.

**Wraparound / Out of School Club** will be operating from 8<sup>th</sup> March for those parents requiring childcare before and after school. If you have any queries please contact [Childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com](mailto:Childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com) - for Breakfast Club and [Wraparound Southridgeoutofschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:WraparoundSouthridgeoutofschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk) - for Out of School Club in the mobile with Maureen and Darren.

**All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week** -

We have yet to receive any further information on this initiative. The current information issued by the government is available via this [link](#) and advises that "the expanded regular testing offer for people without symptoms will be delivered through:

- testing in-person via workplace testing
- local authority test sites
- collection at a local PCR test site during specific test collection time windows
- a new home ordering service, which once launched on 1 March will allow people to order lateral flow tests online to be delivered to their home"

## Final Note

All our staff are looking forward to a successful re-opening of school and to helping the children continue their learning journey here at Southridge. While we are understandably keen to ensure the children make up lost ground in their academic studies we will be focussing initially on them feeling safe and happy in school, and then being ready to learn.

Thank you for the support that you have shown to our school and staff during these difficult times, we look forward to making the second half of this academic year a positive, productive and enjoyable experience for all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Finn Willcock  
Acting Headteacher