

Orchard's C of E Academy

Weekly Parent Bulletin

17th July 2020

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Our Christian Value for this Half Term is **Respect**

Dates for the Diary

21st July Last school day before Summer Holiday
3rd September INSET

4th September INSET
7th September First day of Autumn Term

Next Newsletter

This is not one of my normal newsletters this week, but rather an update on how school will be fully opening for all children in September. I will send a more familiar looking newsletter out on the last day of term – Tuesday 21st July.

September Opening

You should all have received information, about which teacher your child will have next year (the emails are still being sent as I type – there's a lot of them to get through), and the times of their staggered start and finish. Unfortunately, with so many children in school, it has not been possible to always start and finish siblings at similar times – we hope that you understand the difficulty of the logistics.

We will be meeting Government guidance by adjusting school life in the following ways:

Although attendance is once again mandatory, there will be a requirement that children and adults who are displaying the symptoms of COVID 19 stay at home. The main symptoms of coronavirus are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- **Stay at home (self-isolate)** – do not leave your home or have visitors. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also self-isolate.
- **Get a test** – get a test to check if you or your child has coronavirus as soon as possible. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, should also get a test if they have symptoms.

We will continue with the robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements that have served us so well since our wider reopening at the beginning of June. Children will wash hands at the beginning of every session (morning and afternoon registration, after break, before and after lunch, after using the toilet) and surfaces such as door handles and desktops will be sanitised on a regular basis.

We will actively engage with the NHS Test and Trace System. This works as follows:

- **Isolate:** as soon as you experience coronavirus symptoms, medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate for at least 7 days. Anyone else in your household must self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms;
- **Test:** order a test immediately at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access;
- **Results:** if your test is positive, you must complete the remainder of your 7-day self-isolation. Anyone in your household must also complete self-isolation for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. If your test is negative, you and other household members no longer need to self-isolate;
- **Share contacts:** if you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS test and trace service will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with whom you have had close, recent contact and places you have visited. It is important that you respond as soon as possible so that we can give appropriate advice to those who need it. You will be told to do this online via a secure website or you will be called by one of our contract tracers.

We will reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable by:

- Grouping children together with other children at a similar stage of their learning, thus removing the need to split children up across groups for phonics / spelling / maths etc;
- Avoiding contact between groups by keeping them apart at break times and lunchtimes – each class will have a designated area outside in which to play and will eat a packed lunch in their classrooms. We hope that a hot lunch option will be available to the children early on in the Autumn Term;
- Staggering start times and finish times. You will have already received a letter from school informing you of start and finish times to each day. These are designed to reduce congestion outside of the school grounds and allow social distancing for parents and children. Staggered start and finish times also remove the need for lots of children congregating on the playgrounds before and after school and keep bubbles separate. Please arrive at school at your appointed time – try to avoid being either too early or late, which might mean that children would have to mix with those from other bubbles.

We will arrange furniture in classrooms to minimise transfer of germs from one child to another, and to allow for as much social distancing as possible for adults. Government Guidance suggests that risks to children from the virus are very small and that they do not tend to pass it between themselves – unlike, for example a common cold. Thus, there will be no need for the children to social distance in the classroom. From Year 2 upwards however, we will sit the children in rows, meaning that they are not facing each other. Unnecessary furniture will be removed from classrooms so that the adults in class have as much room to social distance as is possible. Guidance says that teachers should avoid being within 1 metre of any individual child for more than 15 minutes in a given day.

Each classroom has a lidded bin, and we will be practising ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ to minimise the risk of transmission of germs.



What do you need to do?

- Ensure that your child is in school every day unless they are unwell – see above what to do if they display COVID 19 symptoms. Attendance is once again mandatory from September;
- Be at your appointed gate at your appointed timeslot (not too early, not too late) – this will reduce congestion outside the school and avoid children having to pass too closely to children from other bubbles;
- Phone up and make an appointment if you wish to speak to a teacher – we really need to minimise and control the number of adults on site. We will take advice closer to the time about how parent consultation evenings might work;
- Don't send your child to school in a mask. Masks are a hot topic on the news at the moment (I have even bought myself a rather fetching West Ham mask), and if you wish to wear them to and from school, that is entirely your choice. We have been advised against their use whilst the children are in school though.

- Make sure that your child is wearing proper uniform, and has their PE kit in school on the correct day (see below).

Free School Meal Vouchers

For those that are entitled to them, vouchers for meals will be with you in time for the summer holidays, which start on Wednesday 22nd July. Each family will receive one voucher that will last for the whole summer. The process is different to the previous voucher scheme, which was done electronically, as these vouchers are all being funded through central government, following the intervention by Marcus Rashford last month.

And Finally...

I hate the phrase 'the new normal' which we hear so much nowadays, but I guess that is what all of the above is. Rest assured, when we are given the go ahead, we will return school to the welcoming, community feel which we are so very proud of. Until that time, we hope we have your understanding for the way things have to be in this most unusual time in history.

Note: There will be additional guidance coming from the government on August 17th – we will be sure to contact you in good time if this impacts any of the above.

Thank you for all the support you provide for the children and our academy!



Orchards' Church of England Academy Uniform Policy

Review Date: June 2020

Why Uniform?

We believe that school uniform is very important in making children feel part of the school. The uniform is practical, enhances the tone and atmosphere, and helps maintain pupil pride in the school. This is backed up by recent research - a study found that a uniform promotes commonality among pupils, improves concentration and fosters a sense of pride, especially when worn in public. The advantage of wearing a school uniform has become more pertinent at a time when many fear our young people are unhappier than ever before and in this particular context, peer pressure to conform to latest fashion items.

All of the uniform is available from local shops or chain stores. If you wish to purchase an item with the school badge, these are only available from the school - indicated below by an asterisk (*).

Winter uniform (to be worn from after October Half Term to the beginning of the Easter Holiday):

Grey or black skirt/skort/pinafore/trousers with red polo shirt, green cardigan/jumper /sweatshirt*. Grey or black tights or white socks (ankle or knee length), to be worn with a skirt, skort or pinafore. Jeans, jogging bottoms and sports shorts are not acceptable.

Summer uniform (to be worn from the beginning of the Summer Term to October Half Term):

Green gingham checked dress and white socks (ankle or knee length) with green cardigan

OR

Grey or black skirt/skort/pinafore/trousers with red polo shirt, green cardigan/jumper /sweatshirt*. Grey or black tights or white socks (ankle or knee length), to be worn with a skirt, skort or pinafore. Jeans, jogging bottoms and sports shorts are not acceptable.

Shoes

Black plain shoes which have a fastening of some sort - a Velcro strap, bar and buckle or laces (no fashion heeled shoes). Trainers should only be worn for PE.

PE Kit

Black/green shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms, plain black/white/green t-shirt or polo shirt (no sleeveless vests) and plain, black/green coloured fleece; trainers.

Purchasing Uniform

New uniform can be purchased from the school office. The PTA operate a second hand/nearly new uniform store and there are a number of opportunities to buy or swap throughout the school year (this process will be different under current COVID guidance). Any used uniform can be donated to the school, should you wish to do so.

Jewellery, Hair and Nails

Jewellery should be kept to a minimum for health and safety reasons, and for security. Watches and medical bracelets only are allowed.

No nail varnish or nail extensions

Pierced ears should have small studs only - no other piercings are permitted e.g. nose etc.

Please avoid extreme hairstyles, including dyed hair. Hair shoulder length or longer should be tied back with a plain coloured headband or bow.