

St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

Sand Street,
Soham,
Cambridgeshire,
CB7 5AA



Saturday 30th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have all managed to have an enjoyable and safe half-term break. Preparations for the partial reopening of school are just about complete and I would like to thank all of the staff for being so generous with their time, both in and out of term time, to ensure the school is as safe as possible for everyone scheduled to come in on Monday 1st June.

With Monday fast approaching, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some specific information you will need to consider alongside that contained within the letter I sent out dated the 25th May. I will endeavour to keep this succinct and cover some of the questions raised by parents over the last week.

Should my child be coming in school on Monday 1st June?

The partial reopening of the school is only for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. Key Worker and Vulnerable pupils will continue to access provision as they have since school closure in March. There has been no further guidance from the Government as to when pupils from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be invited back into school.

Have I missed a survey?

Only families who have pupils in the year groups included in the partial reopening received the second survey. The responses from this have helped us establish which pupils will be restarting on Monday 1st June, those who may wish to join later in the term, and those who do not intend to send their child in before September.

I appreciate we have been having difficulties with our email system, and have worked hard to ensure those who may not have initially received correspondence will have received it as soon as possible. Every effort is being made to address this.

I have completed second survey and would like to know how I indicate when my child will restart school.

Parents who have indicated they would not be sending their child in from 1st June, but would consider later in term will receive a survey towards the end of next week enabling them to state whether they would be returning on Monday 15th June. This survey will run on a fortnightly basis to coincide with the two week 'windows' in which children are permitted to restart school.

What does my child need to bring into school?

We are encouraging pupils to bring in as little as possible each day. To help you prepare, here is a handy checklist:

- ✓ Clean uniform each day (if for whatever reason this is not possible, non-school uniform is acceptable)
- ✓ A healthy snack in-line with school policy for break time (the Fruit for School Scheme is not operating at present)

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- ✓ A water bottle filled at home (no juice or cordials)
- ✓ Prescribed medication in a secure, named container (e.g. inhaler, insulin)
- ✓ Nursery, Reception and Year 1 are all to bring a spare set of clothes in a carrier bag. This will remain in school.
- ✓ Sun cream and sun hat. We plan to deliver a lot of learning outdoors as this is scientifically proven to reduce the risk of potential infection. Could parents/carers please apply this before school as pupils will have to apply this themselves once in school.
- ✓ Pupils in Year 1 and Year 6 are welcome to bring in one book from home. Pupils in Nursery and Reception do not need to.

I would politely ask for the following items not be brought into school:

- ✗ Any toys or items from home not included in the list above
- ✗ Hand sanitiser (there will be a rigorous hand washing routine in school)
- ✗ Face masks or any other PPE equipment

Can my child have a school meal provided?

We are discouraging parents from providing packed lunches from home, but we do appreciate this may be necessary. We will provide school prepared packed lunches for all children who indicate they wish to have one during morning registration. This provision will be free to pupils in Reception and Year 1 (and Year 2 pupils accessing Key Worker / Vulnerable group) through the Universal Free School Meal scheme. Pupils eligible for Free School Meals will also receive this free of charge. Pupils in Nursery and Year 6 (and Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils in Key Worker / Vulnerable group) will have to pay for meals as usual through Parent Pay. Further information will be provided to parents with Nursery children as this is not a provision schools ordinarily make.

I have read letter dated 25th May, but am still a little unsure about drop off and collection procedures.

Upon arrival you will notice demarcated paths on the school site and designated areas for specific age groups. This will look very different to what you and your child is used to, but please do not be alarmed! Mrs Henderson and Mrs Thomas will be attending the two gates onto the school grounds and will be happy to help. The most important thing above all else is maintaining social distancing, adhering to allotted times outlined in previous letter and ensuring only one adult is accompanying children to school.

Parents/Carers must accompany children when dropping off at the beginning of every school day. Year 6 pupils can make their own way home at the end of the day if this what they would ordinarily do. So as to not compromise the integrity of the groups established in school, could parents please reinforce the importance of social distancing and emphasise that children are not to go to their friend's houses.

What should I do if my child is unwell?

Irrespective of whether they are Covid-19 symptoms or not, any child who is unwell or poorly must not come into school. The Government has stipulated legal obligation of parents to ensure their child attends school has been relaxed – therefore periods of absence as a consequence of illness will not run the risk of incurring a fine.

If your child is poorly and due to come in, please follow usual protocol of informing the school office via telephone or email.

What will happen if a child demonstrates Covid-19 symptoms whilst in school?

First it is important to remember that pupils will not be exposed to any other pupils or adults beyond those allocated to their bubble. No adults or pupils will move between bubbles. If a child was to demonstrate symptoms, they would be

removed from their bubble immediately and placed in a designated isolation room under the supervision of an adult with appropriate PPE (the school has a supply of PPE equipment already). The parents of this child would be informed and instructed to collect their child immediately. The room in which the child had been isolated and the classroom in which their bubble is located would be cleaned straight away. The remaining children in the group will NOT be sent home, but parents will be informed if there is a suspected incident of Covid-19 within their child's bubble. Children will continue to come in each day afterwards as usual, but parents are asked to remain vigilant and follow Government/NHS advice if their child displays symptoms.

Will my child be worse off as a consequence of not coming in even if they are in an eligible year group to return?

We wholly appreciate what a difficult decision this has been for you all. We are determined to maintain a provision for your child whether they are in school or not. Activities undertaken in school will be shared on ClassDojo and Tapestry alongside additional teacher guidance.

I have no doubt there are other questions I have not covered, but please be assured we have taken every step possible to keep pupils, parents and staff as safe as possible while in school whilst also seeking to support those remaining at home.

We look forward to continuing to work alongside you during this unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Harrison', written over a horizontal line.

Mr M Harrison
Headteacher