

ST MARY'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
Church Lane, Chessington
KT9 2DH

Thursday 27th August 2020

Dear parents and families

RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

We hope you've had a safe, restful and happy summer and have been able to enjoy the increased opportunities and events that have been on offer as the lockdown has relaxed. Reflecting on how our pupils, families and staff all approached the unprecedented demands of the past months has not only amazed and inspired us - it has made it easier to plan for the coming term, knowing that we have such strong support, resilience and good will from our school community.

We are delighted to be writing to you with our updated plans to prepare for the full-time return of all our pupils. We have been looking carefully at the government's guidance and advice issued both in July and over the summer holiday, and anticipate further updates before the start of term. We have ensured that we have made detailed and robust plans to welcome the pupils back safely and smoothly.

We are keen to re-establish a sense of normality and security as rapidly as possible. Of course, we are aware that plans may have to change at short notice and we are also making robust plans for blended or home-based learning if needed.

OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES AS WE RETURN

As we return, we will use our key Christian Values of Honesty, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Respect and Kindness to guide us in re-establishing ourselves as a live community of learners, fostering our sense of belonging, security, creativity and resilience. Our curriculum over the first half term will reflect these values and aspirations as we work to 'recover' ourselves and our learning.

Ensuring that all members of our school community remain safe is our highest priority; every routine, expectation or request comes from this principle. Last term, we planned our opening for all year groups in a controlled and measured way and adapted our model in the light of what worked well and what was not so useful - we will continue to do this and to reflect daily and weekly, making changes as needed. Thank you for bearing with us as we went through this process last term - thanks in advance for this term when we will no doubt ask the same of you as circumstances change.

DATES FOR PUPILS' RETURN

Pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 will return on Monday 7th September. Pupils in Butterfly and Caterpillar (Reception and Nursery) Classes will begin their build up sessions from Monday 14th September. A full list of term dates for the year, including the remaining INSET days, events and plans for assemblies and parents consultations, will be sent on 3rd September.

BRINGING ALL OUR PUPILS BACK SAFELY

Firstly, it is essential that pupils are well enough to attend school. If your child or any member of your household shows any corona-like symptoms, please do not come to school. We will send an updated 'What to do if...' information sheet to all families on the 3rd September.

THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Having learnt from the success of the staggered start and end times last term, we will continue to spread the entry and exit of our pupils and families. We will be bringing around 200 pupils into school every day and we will all need to work together to make the entry and exit of pupils as smooth and safe as it can possibly be, allowing pupils to get back into excellent patterns of attendance and punctuality.

Our plans for drop off and pick up - to be reviewed daily

Class	Morning	Afternoon
Falcon - Year 6	8.35am - 8.45am Front school path/KS2 patio	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Owl - Year 5	8.35am - 8.45am Front school path/KS2 patio	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Otter - Year 4	8.35am - 8.45am Front school path/KS2 patio	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Fox - Year 3	8.35am - 8.45am Front school path/main door	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Hedgehog - Year 2	8.35am - 8.45am Alley gate	3.10pm - 3.20pm Nursery to Alley gate - one way
Squirrel - Year 1	8.35am - 8.45am Alley gate	3.10pm - 3.20pm Nursery to Alley gate - one way
Butterfly - Reception	8.50am - 9.00am Nursery gate	3.10pm - 3.20pm Nursery to Alley gate - one way
Caterpillar - Nursery	8.50am - 9.00am Nursery gate	11.45am Nursery gate

For this system to work, it will be essential to be punctual and to come and go promptly - please help us by following these guidelines to keep the number of people on site to a minimum and to ensure everyone's safety:

- **come during (not before or after) your time slot**
- **ensure that only one adult comes to drop off and pick up - if you need to bring younger siblings, please keep them next to you while you are on site**
- **follow social distancing routines at all times, leaving the site promptly and moving away from the area outside school so that others can come and go**
- **observe the one way system to ensure that we are all moving in the same direction**
- **avoid visiting the school office - there will be a member of SLT or the admin team available outside school every day to take messages and the office is contactable by email and by phone throughout the school day**

PRACTICALITIES - UNIFORM, PE KIT, CLASS GROUPS, BOOKS AND STATIONERY

From Year 1 to Year 6, pupils will be expected to return to wearing full school uniform, including black school shoes (not trainers) - we really value parents' support with this important expectation. We will send further information about PE kit on 3rd September when we have established our PE timetable and how much of our PE teaching will take place outdoors.

Children in Butterfly and Caterpillar Class are expected to wear a school jumper or cardigan, white polo shirt, dark coloured trousers or jogging bottoms and shoes that are suitable for active learning both inside and out. Children in Caterpillar Class do not need a PE kit, and Miss Cameron will share details of when children in Butterfly Class will need their PE kit before 14th September.

Children will be taught mainly within their own classrooms, and will not be expected to socially distance within their class group. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and pupils will play within zoned areas. There will be no crossover within school between Key Stage groups. Pupils will be expected to distance from adults where possible and we will continue to insist on our rigorous routines of hand washing and cleaning throughout the school day.

We will be reintroducing the use of book bags and the transfer of books between home and school from 14th September and will send out more information about how this will work during our first week back - please do not send in books and book bags until then

Each child will be provided with an individual pack of resources for the classroom and so will not need to bring pencil cases or other stationery items to school.

CLUBS AND WRAPROUND CARE

We are aware that a number of families rely on before and after school support and we intend to meet the needs of all families who require this childcare. Having learnt at the end of last term that the YMCA can no longer provide wrapround care, we are currently looking at how we can support before and after school provision according to family need. A Parentmail survey about childcare will be circulated on Wednesday 2nd September - please be assured that there will be support in place for all families who have requested it.

We hope to have the usual range and standard of after school clubs in place as soon as it's safe and manageable to do so. We will let you know as soon as we are able to make practical arrangements.

LUNCHES

We are waiting for a final update from ISS, our lunch provider, about what form of school lunch can be offered at the start of term. At the moment, it looks as if sandwich lunches only will be provided for the first few weeks. We will keep the situation under review over the first few weeks and will move to hot meal provision as soon as possible. If your child is having a packed lunch, please try to ensure that it is balanced and it follows the school's policy on food, so no items containing nuts (including Nutella or other chocolate spread), no chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks. We will send out any further updates we receive before the start of term.

We are looking forward to seeing you all and to being back together at school.

Best wishes,

Mrs Playle and Mrs Quinn