



7th July 2020

School Opening information for September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all looking forward to the return of all children in September with great excitement, hoping that there will be no further outbreaks of the virus or local measures that could prevent us from welcoming back the children.

Schools received updates from the government late last week and we have been ploughing through the latest guidance to ensure that we comply with the recommendations within.

When will the children start back at school?

1. School will re-open after the summer on Wednesday 2nd September (Tuesday 1st September is an INSET day for teacher training).
2. Following government guidelines and for the sake of the smooth entry of well over 600 children, we will be staggering the start of the new school year very slightly during that first week back.
3. Nursery and Reception children will have a slightly longer induction period due to these new children not having visited school before - their parents have already been notified of the arrangements.

Years 1, 3 and 4 will start back on Wednesday 2nd September
They will be joined by Years 2, 5 and 6 on Thursday 3rd September
So all the children will be in together by Friday 4th September

What will the start of the school day look like ...

There will also be a staggered start time for each year group as follows:

1. School will be open on both sites from 8.30 to 8.40am **for those with siblings on another St Thomas' site.**
2. Everyone else will arrive between 8.40 and 9am.
3. As we will be required to keep to groups of no more than 30 in school, parents need to drop children off at the school gate as now.
4. Children will go straight into their classrooms.
5. Please deliver your child promptly at the gate, moving to one side so that other children can be dropped off.

... and the end of the day?

1. Nursery will finish at 3.00pm.
2. Reception will finish at 3.05pm.
3. Year 1 will finish at 3.10pm.
4. Year 2 will finish at 3.15pm.
5. Year 3 will finish at 3.15pm.
6. Year 4 will finish at 3.25pm.
7. Years 5 and 6 will finish at 3.30pm.
8. We realise that there may be some clashes of times between the two sites so we are happy to wait with your child for you to arrive. We will bring your child to the gate.

What about wrap around care (Breakfast Club and After School Club)?

We will be reintroducing wrap around care in September but we are required to create consistent bubbles for the children with minimal crossing of the bubbles of 30 from the teaching period of the school day. This means that we will keep children in a year group bubble at both Breakfast Club and After School Club. Mrs Thomas has already begun to contact parents by email to confirm their plans and is continuing to work with new guidelines. She will communicate any new arrangements to you during the next couple of weeks.

Will there be after school sports clubs?

We are working with Primary Sports Coaches Limited, our normal provider, to deliver after school clubs. At the moment we are planning to arrange one session per week for each year group where the children would be in groups of no more than 30 with a choice of 3 activities such as multisports, football and dance. It might look for example, like Year 3 on Mondays after school.

PSCL will firm up the arrangements and let everyone know by the end of term. We would look to commence these activities on week beginning 21st September for the new Reception children and week beginning 7th September for all other year groups.

I'm worried that my child has missed school - what will happen?

Teachers have already begun to identify any gaps some children are likely to have following the period of lockdown and these have been handed over to your child's next year's teacher. We are also very encouraged by the progress we have seen by those following the lessons provided online by our teachers.

Gaps will be addressed by intervention groups and good classroom practice. We will prioritise Maths and English to begin with. Guidelines say that the curriculum should be back to normal by Summer 2021. We would hope to be able to deliver a fully broad and balanced curriculum well before then.

What about National tests?


The government has said that Phonics Screening, Year 2 SATs, Year 4 Tables Tests and Key Stage 2 (Y6) SATs will take place as expected during the school year.

Exceptional days

We have been advised that schools may take 3 additional days for training and preparation due to the pandemic. There will need to be curriculum adjustments during the coming year as more updates on catch-up programmes are rolled out and we adapt our programmes in school to meet the needs of our children. We are aiming to plan these three days across two terms; probably 2 of them in the Autumn Term and the remaining day in the Spring Term. We will try to attach them to the beginnings or ends of holidays or to training that is already scheduled and will let you know the firm dates as soon as possible.

Of course, it goes without saying that we will have to wait and see what the next few months bring in terms of the Covid-19 virus and government planning. Any and all of our planning is subject to change: all we can do is plan for what we know now.

With kind regards,



Mrs K Morris

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