

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Jenkins
Tel: 01454 866523
E-Mail: admin@stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk
Website: <http://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/>
Twitter: @StChadsPrimSch

Cranham Drive
Patchway
South Glos
BS34 6AQ

Tuesday 19th May 2020

Re: Potential partial re-opening in June (as per Government guidelines)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your responses to the survey last week regarding the potential partial re-opening of our school to specific year groups. We appreciate the many comments of praise for the staff and the provision so far of home learning and approaches to help stay connected with the children and community. It was also incredibly helpful to have your thoughts regarding your child's attendance. I am fully aware that this is not an easy decision as a parent/carer and that there are many factors contributing to your decision. Having carried out a thorough risk assessment, taking into account guidance from the Local Authority, Department for Education (DfE), Unions, Health and Safety, Public Health England (PHE) and many more, like all schools, you will understand that I am still not able to fully guarantee that all children and staff will not be at risk but we will do our utmost to mitigate these risks within school and follow the risk assessment in place. The safety and well-being of our children and staff remain our highest priority at all times.

You will be forwarded shortly a letter from South Gloucestershire Local Authority. It includes some very clear guidance and support of schools when making decisions as to the partial re-opening of our school. We have made the decision along with our other local cluster schools (such as Coniston, Little Stoke and Almondsbury) to adopt the principles it sets out as well as the timetable for staggering entry back into school. We have also taken the guidance from the DFE in planning how the staggered entry will take place using the prioritised year groups in order as stated by the DFE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

Therefore, I am writing to you now to set out the timetable for the re-admittance of your children back to school if the government confirm that they are ready to move to the next phase. We know that many families will be anxious about returning to school and may think it is too soon, while other families require in-school provision as soon as possible to return to work. Attendance in school during term 6 is not compulsory. The decision to send your child back into school is for you to make, not ourselves or the government and our proposals need to be viewed as an offer. You will not be fined (or your child penalised) if they do not come back into school before September 2020.



Staggered re-open and timetables

St Chad's will be open during half-term to children of keyworkers on Tuesday 26th May, Wednesday 27th May and Thursday 28th May for emergency childcare. Swift Sports will deliver the provision and we have been in contact with families who have been accessing emergency childcare up until now to notify them of this. I will be liaising with them throughout but should any family require emergency provision only, we ask that you contact Ryan at Swift Sports to arrange a place on 07537 991991. You will need to provide your child with a packed lunch and there will be limited spaces available.

We will provide a structured timetable on Friday for you to refer to at home if you wish to continue home learning routines, however it is half-term so you may opt to take this time for a more relaxed week. Staff will not be making calls or responding to dojos during this time. Please follow the emergency advice on our website should you require support during half-term. <https://www.stchadprimaryschool.co.uk/covid-19-safeguarding/>

The school will be closed on Friday 29th May for a full deep clean of the school ready for re-opening and it will also be closed on Monday 1st June for staff training to ensure that we are fully prepared for the next stage. **From Tuesday 2nd June, if the government says so, we will re-admit Reception children only.** This is to allow us to ensure the routines and rules for the children are sufficient as well as the regime of cleaning before allowing more children into school. Reception aged children are the top priority for the DFE. The children will be placed into 'bubbles' of 8 children to ensure that we can manage social distancing of 2 metres in our classroom sizes. **The school will be closed every Friday** for the day to allow for deeper cleaning and for the staff to provide online learning for those children who remain at home. We will, however, remain open for emergency care only every Friday for keyworker children and vulnerable children (we anticipate these children being the children who have accessed school so far). It is very important that we keep the number low on a Friday so that we can appropriately manage the deep cleans in school.

Whilst it is difficult for some of you to commit to an answer just yet, you will understand that for the safety of everyone involved the school will need to plan and so I ask that you let us know by Thursday 21st May 10am by dojo if you require a place for your child from Tuesday 2nd June (both keyworker and Reception children). Once we have final numbers for week 1, we will contact families to notify you of the 'bubble' that your child is in and provide further details about what to expect. If we don't hear from you by Thursday 10am, your child will not be able to attend school in the first week back as we have to ensure safeguarding and health and safety requirements are fully in place.

We are operating on a limited staff as some are shielding or self-isolating. As a result, we are not yet able to confirm the re-admittance of other year groups and may not be able to do so throughout term 6 if Public Health guidelines remain unchanged. However, at the end of week 1, we will re-assess and see whether we are able to accommodate more children. If this is the case, we will consider additional places for Reception children who haven't attended in week 1 first followed by year 1 and then year 6.

Each bubble will have a separate start and finish time to the school day (between 8.30am and 9.30am start time and between 2.30pm and 3.30pm finish time to ensure that we can adhere to social distancing for all families) as well as staggered break times and lunchtimes. There will be no breakfast provision or after school provision available. Each 'bubble' will have one or two specific members of staff attached to them. Due to the numbers and the available staff, your child may not be with their normal class teacher and/or teaching assistant. Each 'bubble' will only interact with the children within that 'bubble' throughout the school day. There will be limited movement around school and spaces that each 'bubble' can use. We aim to use our outdoor space as much as possible for learning and lunchtime. As a result, we ask that children come to school in clothing that is suitable for outdoor learning (including bringing a jumper/coat/sun cream/hat) and in clothing suitable for physical activity. The children won't be changing for PE to reduce possible transference of the virus. To make things easier for parents with regards to washing of clothes, children will not be required to wear school uniform in term 6.



The children will be provided with specific resources that they will need on a daily basis, of which they will have sole use. The only items the children will need to bring into school are a packed lunch (if required), their coat, a hat, suncream and two named water bottles (one for use throughout the day and one for lunch). If your child requires a change of clothes as part of their day, in case of any accidents, of course, you could also supply us with these that we will keep stored away until required. Any shared resources will be washed after every use and left for 24 hours before being used again.

Lunches

If your child is in Reception (Year 1 or 2 if a keyworker) or receives a free school meal linked to benefits, your child will be provided with a free packed lunch from school if they wish. We are unable to supply all children in school with a free lunch from 2nd June. Please order lunches as usual through Parent Pay. Packed lunches from school will be delivered to the classrooms. Children will eat lunch either in their rooms or outside depending on the weather. Any children, who usually receive a free school meal and are not attending school, will continue to receive supermarket vouchers until the government say otherwise.

When you bring your child to school, please do not come into the carpark or the area designated for entry until the allotted time. We ask that **only one parent brings the child to school** and you leave straight away. There will be markings on the ground of 2 metre distance for waiting. The children will be asked to wash or sanitise their hands before entering school and throughout the day (after using the toilet, after breaks and sporting activities, before food preparation, before eating, in between activities, before leaving school and after sneezing or coughing). We will teach and model hygiene as part of our daily routine. If you are able to send a small packet of tissues in with your child (for their use only), this would be very helpful; we will, of course, be providing these too. They will only be allowed to use a specific set of toilets. Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered. Assemblies will be delivered in 'bubbles'. Any communication you need to make with school, please do initially by telephone, dojo, text or email.

In relation to any children who develop Covid-19 symptoms or any one of their family members, we would ask that you inform us immediately and keep your child at home. If they have confirmed Covid-19 after testing or medical advice then we will ask you along with the whole of the 'bubble' to quarantine along with the staff for the allotted time. If your child becomes ill during their time at school, not Covid -19 symptoms related, then we will continue to employ the same procedures as normal. We will call you to collect your child and use the normal expectations of up to 48 hours at home to overcome any sickness.

Learning/Curriculum

I must also stress that the normal curriculum will not be provided to those in school. We will have to be mindful of the amount of time that the children have not been in school and provide them with opportunities to 're-establish routines, relationships and wellbeing'. It will not be a return to learning as the children or parents would expect if these were normal times. We also have to be mindful of the difference in children's home learning experiences and what has been accomplished during this time away from school. We will adopt a Recovery Curriculum with relationships and well-being at the heart of everything we do – an approach recommended by the Local Authority. At the right time, we will begin to review gaps in learning.

Those remaining at home will continue to receive online learning as we have provided since the start of the school closure in March – again, as we have throughout, with a focus on well-being and physical health. Children in class will also access some of these activities during the day. However, they will also be doing different activities.

Reducing the risk of contamination

Some of the staff may wear face masks, gloves and aprons, especially in Reception, when administering first aid and when dealing with food to protect themselves and the children. Of course, enhancing hygiene routines will be enforced and surfaces cleaned on a more regular basis. Limited use of resources and transferring of objects between home and school will also remove some of the cross-contamination. Windows will be opened at the start of each day and remain open to increase ventilation through school. We have also removed all soft furnishing and toys that are difficult to clean thoroughly from working areas, children will be sitting at desks rather than on the carpet and all surfaces in classrooms have been cleared to ensure thorough cleaning routines can take place.



Once we have confirmation of numbers, we will be contacting each parent with their child's 'bubble' number, start and finish time and the names of the staff leading their 'bubble' on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd May. They will remain in that 'bubble' from the day they return to the end of the term. This is to prevent the spread of the virus and cross-contamination. The 'bubbles' have been organised to take account of everything we know about the children. This has been carefully considered along with our knowledge of those children who may find it difficult not being with their normal staff member. In the event that we are able to take more children at a later date, Year 6 would be in groups to support transition linking with other children who are going to be attending the same secondary school. This would enable us to complete some of the transition work in groups for specific secondary schools. Please be respectful of our decisions on this matter as a lot of thought and planning has gone into the organisation of this partial re-opening.

Due to the number of children that we have coming into school and how we have split the groupings we do not have an additional space to accommodate siblings.

Of course, this may all change depending on the scientific advice and the 'R' rate just before the start of June as well as the 5 tests being met. So please note there should be caution within all of this information as what is suggested may not actually come to fruition.

Please note that all diarised events at school - meetings, trips, visits and transition events - are all cancelled up until the end of term for obvious reasons.

To be sure that your child has a place in school on Tuesday 2nd June (only Keyworker children, children with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), children working with a social worker or Reception children), please send a dojo message to the your child's class teacher requesting a place by Thursday 21st May, 10am. We will require evidence of your role as a keyworker when you bring your child to school on 2nd June. Please see the government keyworker list for more details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We hope that you and your families all stay safe and healthy and hope to see you all soon.

Kind regards,

Steph Jenkins
Headteacher

