

## ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **Re: Reception starting school in September 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience regarding plans for starting school in September. As you are aware, we have been waiting for Government advice before letting you know any concrete plans. Following government guidelines and Local Authority advice, we have devised the following plan for new Reception starters in September; as you will be aware, the main caveat to this plan is that if either local or national lockdowns occur (like the one in Leicester) or the infection rate increases then we will not be able to re-open fully and the plan will need to be amended. Unless you hear from us otherwise, we will be adopting the plan below for September.

### **Week One (Term 1 begins Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September)**

**Either** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September **or** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, you will attend a fifteen minute transition meeting **with your child**. This allows your child to see their classroom with you and quietly look around. They will make their peg label and you will have the chance to talk to me and ask any questions.

### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Your child can attend a one hour 'stay and play' session (you will be asked to leave your child at the green gate with staff. Due to Covid-19, we are required to limit the number of visitors in school at any one time). Your child will play for an hour in school within a group of ten. **This session is optional** but we recommended your child attends as it gives your child a chance to play in their classroom in a small group - which is something they missed as part of our usual transition arrangements before the summer holiday.

### **Week Two (commencing 7<sup>th</sup> September)**

The children will attend school **either 9.15-11.30 or 1.00-3.15** for the week (we will send you details of which session your child will be attending via Class Dojo). This will allow the staff to settle the children into school routines and get to know them in groups of fifteen.

### **Week Three (commencing 14<sup>th</sup> September)**

All children attend **9.15-2pm** with lunch in school. When your child has started school, we will give you information about how to sign in and choose your child's lunch options. All Reception children are entitled to a free school meal so you do not need to pay. They may, however, prefer to bring their own packed lunch, which is also fine.

### **Week Four (commencing 21<sup>st</sup> September)**

All children in school **9.15-3.25** (until further notice). School usually begins at 9.00 but until we receive further advice from the government, we must ensure staggered starts/finishes for the school community so start and finish times vary at present.



We appreciate that this is a change to the previously advertised transition arrangements and it will mean further flexibility for parents but we have carefully considered the best way to help your child settle into school, bearing in mind that many children will not have attended a nursery or pre-school for up to five months. We are also aware that our usual transition opportunities for children to familiarise themselves with the school, staff and children has also not been able to take place as we would have wished. Happy children who feel safe in their environment are best placed to achieve well and enjoy their learning experiences; building these foundations and developing relationships first is hugely important to us, which is why we have amended things to support your child during their first few weeks of primary school. There will be opportunities for parents to explore our room later in the term (or school year depending on government advice).

We are really looking forward to meeting you all and welcoming you and your child to the St Chad's community. We realise that this can be an anxious time for parents, especially with current circumstances and will work hard to support you and your child through this transition.

If you have any questions, please contact me on Class Dojo or telephone the school office and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting you and your children soon,

Miss Bendall and the St Chad's Team

