04 March 2021

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted that we are able to welcome back all children on Monday 8th March following the government's recent announcement.

Our priority, on the return to school, will be the children's well-being. We appreciate that the children have all had different experiences since the beginning of the Spring term and our staff will do their very best to meet the needs of all children. It would be useful if you could alert us to any particularly difficult circumstances your child has encountered since the start of this lockdown, so that we are able to support appropriately. Please email in confidence to admin3505@welearn365.com.

We will, of course, build on the learning that has taken place at home and begin to identify what next steps need to be planned to support the children academically. We are keen for the children to feel safe and secure on their return and be able to reconnect with their friends as well as their learning.

Attendance Arrangements
It is absolutely vital that all children are able to return to school on Monday 8th March. The government guidance is very clear that attendance at school is mandatory and the usual rules on school attendance will apply including parents' duty to ensure their child attends school regularly as well as schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.

We need to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, well-being and wider development. It would be helpful for you to discuss the return to school with your children.

Start and Finish Times
We have updated our 'Helping Keep Everyone Safe' poster with start and finish times and useful information for parents. This is attached to this letter and included on our website. The main changes are:

- Early drop off at 8:55 is now for Robins (at the classroom via the blue gate) and Kingfishers (via the Green Gate to the Courtyard). Each are collected from the same place at 3:10
- The later 9:10 drop off is now for Goldfinches (via Reception) and Skylarks (via the Green Gate to the Courtyard). Each are collected from the same place at 3:20

We found this approach worked well last term and allows better social distancing through staggering. Please come alone to collect your child; arrive and depart promptly, in your face covering (let the office know if you are exempt); don't compromise our efforts by lingering or mixing on your way home.

It is vital that children are punctual and all children should be at school between 8:55am and 9:10am. Likewise, please ensure children are collected on time at the end of the school day.

Daventry Rd, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 1PS
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School Lunches
We will continue to operate a reduced menu while we serve our bubbles their lunches separately. The choices up to Easter are available on our website: https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/school-meals-2/
We will be looking to reintroduce the full hot menu once restrictions allow. Our midday supervisors are attached to a dedicated bubble.

School Structure
On returning to school a few changes have been made. These changes are to maximise the children's learning across the school.

- **Robins (EYFS)**
  In the mornings, Nursery and Reception will come in the same way as normal, however Reception children will register in The Nest with Miss Maclean and Mrs Crowley. Nursery children will register with Mrs Hilditch and Miss Lyons in the main room. During the morning, the nursery and reception will work separately so that their needs can be met. In the afternoon, they will learn together with Miss Maclean, Mrs Hilditch and Miss Lyons in the usual room and outside classroom.
- **Kingfishers (KS2)**
  In year 3 & 4, with Mrs Crowley now supporting Reception, we are increasing Mrs Toon's time in class. Miss Dymond will also support learning for three mornings a week and we welcome a new trainee teacher Mrs Nelson two afternoons a week.
- **Goldfinches (KS1) & Skylarks (KS2)**
  Year 1 and 2 remain unchanged with Mrs Whiteford and Mrs Hawley sharing teaching supported by Mrs Reeves. Year 5 and 6 remain unchanged with Ms McAloon and Mrs Hopkins sharing teaching.

Before and After School Club
B&A Club is reopening as of 8th March with limited capacity, morning spaces will be capped at 8 and afternoon spaces 15 in line with current bubble guidance. Where need outstrips available places, preference will be given to those who have been regular club users previously and/or have no other alternative childcare options available to them. Booking forms are available on the website and must be returned no later than 9am Friday morning – although regular monthly, or half termly bookings are preferred.

We will continue to update you with further developments as they arise and our school website will be regularly updated with our latest risk assessment and other relevant information:
https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/

Thank you for your continued patience and support. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Yours

Jane Price
Headteacher

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does my child have to attend school?
Yes. Attendance at school from Monday 8th March is mandatory. We want to work closely with our families so please email us with any concerns to admin3505@welearn365.com.

What if my child is ill?
If you child is feeling unwell for any reason, you must keep them off school until their symptoms have passed or they have been tested. We have avoided having to close bubbles because parents have exercised caution and adopted a sensible approach to illness and school attendance.

How do I explain to my child what school will look like?
School will be almost exactly as it was before the Christmas holidays. We are very excited to have the children returning and we will attempt to make school as 'normal' as possible for everyone.

Books, Reading Records & Work Packs
It is essential that we ensure children are still reading daily. Please return any books borrowed over lockdown and bring your reading record to school. Individual class details to follow from class teachers.
Please bring in any completed paper packs and assignments for marking.

Will my child need to wear uniform?
Yes, the children in school are expected to be back in uniform but we understand how expensive shoes are and with the current financial climate, best endeavours will be accepted but they must be sensible. It is a good idea for the children to wear layers that they can remove as the weather warms as all classrooms have the windows open for ventilation.

What about PE?
PE returns to your allocated day and kit should be worn all day. Please make sure PE kit is clean, reasonably smart and in muted colours – no brand names or football kits.

Contacting Staff
Staff will not be able to speak with parents face-to-face at start and end of day (for any length) and we request parents call or email the school to arrange a convenient time to speak with your child's class teacher if necessary.

What happens if a child or staff member at school develops symptoms?
Please see our Updated Risk Assessment for full details, however you must ensure we have up to date contact details for you and at least one other nominated person who could collect your child should they fall ill.

What happens if I or someone in my household develops symptoms?
Please let the school know as soon as possible and you will need to follow the Government guidelines. To arrange a test, you need to call 119. Full guidance here: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/what-to-do-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms/

What happens if there is an outbreak at school and the class is sent home?
We have developed a highly successful online platform and learning will be shared on Google Classrooms. As in the Blended & Remote Leaning Policy, children who are well but isolating will be provided with daily work and feedback will be completed on Google Classrooms within the week.

What are the guidelines for social distancing at home?
We must ask parents and carers to follow Lockdown and social distancing guidelines set out by the government. This will help us to minimise the risks to the children and staff in each bubble.

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What are the arrangements for hand washing?
The children will continue to wash hands on entry and throughout the day. We also have a large quantity of hand sanitiser available.

What are the cleaning arrangements?
In addition to pre-Covid cleaning protocols, tables, toilets, shared facilities and other contact points such as light switches and door handles will be cleaned with antibacterial solution at lunchtime as well as after school. Any iPads or class PCs that are used will be cleaned before and after use. The children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day including before and after lunch.

What about social distancing?
Classrooms will be organised to ensure that children stay apart from staff as much as is possible in a school setting. The staff will remind the children of social distancing expectations regularly. Children will not be sharing resources and they will have a named pack of stationery that is just for them. The children will spend plenty of time outside as well.

Will my child be with their class adults?
Your child will be with their usual class adults. We will still be covering teachers PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) lessons with our own staff and external sports coach but these teachers will remain in their teacher zone and two metres away from everyone else wherever possible. This is not possible in all cases, nor desirable, particularly with younger children.

What are bubbles and how will they work?
The children will be taught in their usual classes in lesson time and share breaktimes with their class as well.

What about playtimes and lunchtimes?
We recognise the importance of social interaction for all our pupils as well as their physical health needs. At playtimes and lunchtimes we will use allocated times and areas for each bubble and the field when weather permits.

Will the staff wear PPE?
DFE guidelines only recommend PPE equipment for staff in communal areas and staff have been adhering to this since September. When staff are dealing with first aid or children who may become ill, they will wear PPE. It would be helpful to explain what this might look like to your child. We will continue to check the temperature of all pupils before they enter school but relying on parents to make a sensible decision to not send a sick child to school. Staff may be wearing masks in communal areas or where social distancing is not possible.

What about clubs?
In order to protect bubbles, there will be no staff running school clubs until at least after Easter.

Will my child be going on any school trips?
Until further guidance is issued, the school will not be going on any trips other than within Southam itself where transport is not needed. This will be communicated to you separately if it occurs.

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