

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after a week away. We look forward to seeing more of you on 15th June. I am sure many of you have had concerns regarding sending children back into school and if it safe to do so. I can assure you that all measures have been put into place following the DFE guidelines.

The teachers have prepared video clips of what the school now looks like and arrangements for coming into school so that the children know what to expect. These can be viewed on the school's twitter page and the class pages on the school website.

Preparation for a school return 15th June 2020

In order to be in a position to open to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children, we have made the provisions set out in this document. **Our priority is the health and safety of our community.** Our partial re-opening plan and phased approach is based on the guidance from the UK Government released to the public on 11th May 2020 and then later Sefton's wishes to return on 15th June.

Guiding principles:

1. To prioritise the safety and health of children, parents and staff;
2. To minimise the risk of transmission and infection;
3. To use our best endeavours to provide education for the children back in school.

Organisation:

The following children will be permitted, though not obliged to attend school after half term on the following dates:

From 15th June

- Children in Reception; (two days only – 15th and 16th)
- Children in Year 1; (Monday – Thursday)
- Children in Year 6; (Monday – Thursday)
- Key workers children and vulnerable (Monday – Thursday)

17th June

- Children in Nursery classes; (two days only 17th & 18th)

Please note – SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL ON FRIDAYS FOR DEEP CLEAN.

Should at any point the number of children in school not be safely manageable, in line with the Government guidance, the school will notify the Local Authority that it is unable to cater for a number of older children and seek alternative provision.

In order to safely place the children across the school, the following provisions will be made:

- Children to be placed into 'teams' of no more than 15 children, these have been matched across the school with families;
- One way system in operation in the school corridors and on stair cases.
- Each 'team' to be allocated a teacher and an appropriate number of teaching assistants (depending upon the needs of the class) per day;
- Each 'team' to remain within their classroom except to go to the toilet and use outside areas;
- Each child will be allocated a number which matches an number cubicle, this will allow us to restrict numbers of children using the facilities

- There will be allocated entrances, opening times, break times, lunch times and collection times and collection points implemented for each year group. These must be adhered to ensure social distancing and the safety of everyone.
- Letters will be provided for parents of children in each year group informing them of these details prior to opening on 15th June;
- Strict toileting and handwashing provision to be put into place;
- In order to reduce the risk of infection and transmission, children and staff from each 'team' to have no contact with children and staff from any other 'team' during the working day;
- Headteacher to supervise the 'teams' and to be the only person to interact with members of separate 'teams' whilst adhering to 2m social distancing rules;
- Children to have their own stationery sets/work space;
- Office staff to maintain 2m social distancing within the office.

Lunch times:

In order to minimise the risk further, packed lunches must be brought into school in disposable bags. Children on hot dinners and entitled to free school meals will be provided for as per usual with social distancing seating in place in the school hall.

Lunch times will be staggered and a break outside afterwards.

As numbers increase we will have to re-plan teams, work spaces and lunchtime provision in accordance with social distancing measures and numbers of children.

It is imperative you contact school before sending your child to school, we will give you a start date after we have planned for them. If they are not planned for and not on the register we will not allow them onto the school site.

Classroom Organisation:

In classes from years 1 – 6, children will be expected to remain seated throughout most of the day in the classroom. Desks will be spaced out in accordance with 2m social distancing. In Early Years zones for restricted numbers of children, will be laid out **however, it will not be possible to maintain 2m distance between each child.** It is recommended that staff approach children from behind them to reduce the risk of particle transmission.

Staff are encouraged to remain standing when speaking to children to prevent their faces being close to children's faces.

Pupils with 1:1 support will continue to be provided that support but a physical barrier may need to be placed between them in the form of desk spaces.

Toilets:

A system of one-in, one-out will operate with the toilets and all toilet cubicles will be numbered which matches each child's number. A member of staff will escort the child to the bathroom and wait outside. This will signify to other teams using the same toilets that these toilets are out of use until such time as no member of staff is standing outside. We are fortunate to have toilets in Nursery between year 1 and Reception class, in Year 2 and separate girls and boys toilets for the juniors.

Provision of education:

At this point, our priority is to allow children to resume schooling safely. Staff will use their best endeavours to ensure that children are educated at a level appropriate to their needs. There will be no expectation for staff to assess work at this stage and no expectation for end of year reports this year. There will be no after school clubs for the remainder of this year.

Staff hours:

Staff are required to be in school 15 minutes before the start of their 'team's' arrival time. Staff may leave the premises as soon as the last child from their team has been collected and they have prepared for the following day.

Collection and drop-off of children:

It is expected that all children are brought to school and collected by **1 adult only** (every effort should be made to keep the same adult to keep the number of people accessing school to a minimum) at their designated time. It is imperative that family members then leave the site as soon as their child is safely in school to facilitate safe social distancing. All adults waiting outside school must keep a safe 2 m distance away from each other, markings have been laid inside the school grounds for this but not on public pathways outside of school. All classes will be issued letters prior to returning after half term.

Adhering to the DfE Guidance:

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

This is a brief list of the measures we will put into place for your child's return to school.

- 4 day week - closed Friday
- Small groups - Maximum 15 (at the moment we have no more than 10.)
- Classes set up with desks at least 2m apart and tray of own resources provided.
- Children may not be with own teacher or in own classroom.
- Children may not be with friends.
- Groups cannot mix.
- Staggered starts, playtimes, lunchtimes and finishes.
- Separate entrances and exits.
- Doors wedged open where possible to avoid touching handles.
- Teaching same content as our home-learning.
- Toilets will be numbered and you child will be given a number to use so there is as few as possible using the same facilities.
- School surfaces cleaned daily and deep cleaned on Fridays.
- Letters will be provided for each class so they know what time to come to school, where to enter, who they will be working with etc.
- Social distancing and hand washing will be of the utmost importance and staff will continue to remind pupils as often as possible.

Telephone Support Line

A new telephone support line is available to anyone **aged 16+**, therefore although this is not applicable to many of our pupils, parents may benefit from this support, for those who are experiencing stress, worry, and/or low mood as a result of the Covid-19 situation.

We have attached two information posters about the support line. The support line is staffed by the Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and is available 8.00am to 8.00pm every day; providing:

- A listening ear.
- A chance to share how you're feeling.
- It can offer information, self-help materials and signposting toward other helpful services and organisations.

Please note this is not an emergency line, if someone is in need of urgent support they should ring the 24/7 urgent mental health support line on 0151 296 7200.

Stress Management for Pupils

Some children maybe feeling anxious about either returning to school, staying at home or about the situation we are in in general. A support leaflet is provided alongside this newsletter with various ideas to support children who are feeling anxious. I hope you find this useful.

Nursery Class Places for September

Do you have a young child aged 2 who will be due to start Nursery next year? We have places available for our Nursery class for September for 15 hours and also 30 hour provision. We are still accepting applications for Nursery places in the next academic year. These can be sent to you electronically and once completed should be brought into school. We also need to see your child's birth certificate when you bring in the application.

Please make sure you apply as soon as possible to get the sessions that you want as 30 hours provision and morning slots are usually in high demand. Forms can also be downloaded at <http://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com/page/key-information/30511>

Uniform Orders

Orders should be placed by 3.15pm on 05.06.20, and payment should be made at the time of placing your order. Thank you.

National Book Token Design Competition

National book tokens have launched a competition with prizes of up to £350/€350 will be allocated as personalised National Book Tokens gift cards in up to 35 x £10/€10 denominations, one for each child in class. Each personalised National Book Tokens gift card will feature the winning child's design. Only one personalised design will be awarded per winning school."

How to enter:

All entries should be produced on A4 paper using the template. Complete the entry form below to see where to email your scanned template. (If you do not have access to a printer and/or scanner, you can take a photo of the artwork and use **this editable form** instead).

The competition is open from Wednesday 6th May and the **closing date for entries is Sunday 28th June 2020**.

We'll pick one winner each week until the competition closes. The winners will be featured on nationalbooktokens.com and our social media channels, and their designs will be printed onto gift cards for each of their classmates when schools reopen. There is also a chance for the school to win £5000.

Food Bank

If you know of anyone in need of food bank support St. Oswald's Church is open on Thursdays: 11.00am until 2.00pm. Rev'd Debbie Statter has food vouchers that she can issue so please do get in touch with her. The phone number and contact details are on their website.

Christian Values

We would like to reflect on the values of 'Community and Compassion' now the restrictions lockdown are beginning to ease I am sure we are now realising how much our community means to us. Although the school setting has changed drastically in order to welcome back more pupils we are still a special school community and a family. 'Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone.

The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not patronizing. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others.

Christians have always had to wrestle with the problem of how a loving God could allow there to be evil and suffering in the world. There is no simple answer to this but we make the first step towards understanding when we grasp the idea that God the Father is not passively observing the suffering of the world from the outside. God fully identified with human suffering in the life and death of Jesus and continues to work to transform the sufferings of the world through the work of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.



This is our school
Let peace dwell here
Let peace begin with me
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of one another
Love of humankind
Love of life itself
And love of God
Let us remember
That as many hands build a house
So Many hearts make a school.
Amen



Take care everyone, stay safe and hopefully we will see you all soon. Keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E. Murtagh
Headteacher