



Learning through faith,
we dream, believe and achieve.

St. Edmund's CofE Primary School
Church Hill Avenue, Mansfield Woodhouse
Nottinghamshire, NG19 9JU
Telephone: 01623 646624
Website: www.st-edmunds.notts.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Nadeem Shah
Deputy Head: Mr Rob Rumsby

Friday July 17, 2020

School Reopening Information for September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your tremendous support since we went into 'lockdown', which was over four months ago! We have genuinely felt you alongside us every step of the way.

Whilst the Prime Minister has said that "schools are now safe from the virus", this does not mean that there is no risk of infection in schools. We must still put arrangements in place to reduce the risk of infection. With this in mind, here are a number of items which we will be implementing and considering when we reopen in September.

These have been drawn up using the current version of government guidance for September. Clearly, if the guidance changes before we return in September, then we will have to adjust our arrangements as appropriate.

Pastoral Support

We will be prioritising pastoral care for all our pupils in September, to support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement, as well as addressing and equipping pupils to respond to issues linked with Covid-19. There will also be focussed pastoral support for individual pupils, as required, to improve their mental wellbeing.

All teachers in school will be making this a primary focus in September and we are fortunate enough to have Mrs Walker, a full-time ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) in school to work with identified individuals and groups of pupils to support their emotional needs.

Curriculum

We will maintain a broad and balanced curriculum in September. Yes, there will be much to catch up on, but this can't be at the expense of enjoyment. It is crucial that children are engaged with school when we return. School can't just be about 'cramming' missed learning in English and Mathematics. For example, if your child is artistic, musical or sporty, then they must have the opportunity to express themselves in these areas.

This being said, we will need to make substantial modifications to our curriculum at the start of the year, so we can prioritise learning to address the significant gaps in knowledge and skills which may have developed, particularly in the core subjects.

Our individual learning plans for pupils will be informed by a comprehensive assessment of pupils' starting points in September. However, these won't take place in the first couple of weeks, as we don't want their first experience back in school to be sitting formal assessments.

An extra Inset day will be scheduled in September, on Friday September the 25th, to properly analyse these initial assessments and put 'catch up' plans in place. The outcomes of these assessments will be communicated with families at our autumn term parents' evening (which may have to be conducted 'virtually') at the beginning of October.

Statutory Assessments

Whilst I personally disagree with this decision, the government has announced that all statutory assessments are scheduled to return in the coming academic year. This means SATs in Year 6 and Year 2, the times table multiplication check in Year 4 and the phonics screening check in Year 1.

The standards and testing agency are reviewing whether to include the phonics screening check for Year 2 next year, as this year group did not complete it this year in Year 1. Also the Reception (FS2) baseline has been postponed until September 2021.

Pupil Attendance

The government has stated that pupil attendance in schools from September is compulsory, with schools advised to reintroduce penalty notices for pupil absence. We have chosen to take a more compassionate and considerate stance, which we will review on a month-by-month basis.

Initially throughout September, we won't be issuing penalty notices for pupil absence due to reasons around the Covid-19 virus. If your child gets sent home to isolate for 7 or 14 days because they have exhibited symptoms, their absence will be treated like any medical absence.

The government has been clear that children who have been shielding for their own medical needs (and those children living with a shielding family member) should return to school in September. If you wish to discuss this kind of situation with us, please give us a call.

We have also chosen to delay the reintroduction of issuing penalty notices to families taking their children out of school to go on holiday in term time until the end of September (instead of reinstating at the start of term). This is because we are aware that there are many of you (for example 'key worker' families) who won't have a chance to have a family holiday over the summer and will be in real need of a well-deserved break.

Please be aware that, we will be returning to issuing penalty notices to families taking their children out of school to go on holiday in term time from Monday September the 28th onwards.

Pupil lateness may prove to be a real issue for us, as we cannot have our office team taking different children to their different class bubbles. If they did this, our office team would become 'bubble breakers' and potentially take the virus from one class to another. Therefore, from September, it will be even more important for you to be on time in the mornings.

Drop Off and Collection Times

We may need to have 'staggered' drop off and collection timings for different groups from the start of September. We know this can be extremely awkward for families with more than one child in school, so we will be looking to make this as manageable as possible.

If a 'staggered' system is still required in September, we will share the exact timings with families before the children return on Wednesday September the 2nd. Please be aware that this may not be shared until the end of August.

The School Day

Regular hand washing and personal hygiene arrangements will be in place.

Break times and lunch times will be staggered for different groups. They may be organised into pairs of classes at these times.

There won't be any whole-school assemblies and/or whole-school events where all the children are together.

Pairs of classes will be sharing toilet blocks and hand washing facilities. They may also share break times and lunch times.

Movement around school will be kept to a minimum.

We will try to facilitate outdoor learning wherever possible. Our PE lessons will also take place outdoors wherever possible and inter-school sporting events won't begin again until January at the earliest.

Visitors into school will be extremely limited. Initially in September, Peripatetic teachers (like our guitar teacher Mr Oakton) will not be coming into school and teaching classes. We will be arranging 'virtual' lessons for these teachers where we can.

Lunches

In September, all children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for 'universal free school meals'. Therefore, we will be trialling a new approach to lunches. All children in these three classes will be provided a free school lunch for the first four weeks of term. We will share the menus with families before we reopen in September.

The children will have the opportunity to try/test the meal. They don't have to finish it, if they don't like it. If you think your child isn't going to like the meal, please send them with a packed lunch as well. They will have time to eat their packed lunch, if they don't like the hot dinner.

Hot school dinners will also be available on a daily basis for children in Years 3/4/5/6, as well as our 30 hour nursery (FS1) pupils. They are still free for those children accessing income-based free school meals and charged at £2.35 per day for everyone else.

Childcare Arrangements + After School Clubs

For obvious reasons, namely not being able to have children from 8 separate 'bubble' groups together in the same place at the same time, we are not able to run our breakfast club and after-school childcare at the start of term. For the same reasons, we will not be running our after-school clubs programme at the start of September.

We are very conscious that this will make getting to and from work in time extremely tricky for many of our families and we will be looking to reinstate our childcare as soon as we can. We will be reviewing both of these elements on a regular basis.

To be completely clear, there won't be any 'key worker childcare' groups in September. All children, including those who have been accessing key worker childcare since March, will be in their own year group classes.

Regular Cleaning of School

Those of you who attended our virtual parent/carer 'Zoom' meetings recently will have heard our thoughts around considering closing early on Fridays to do a weekly deep clean, due to our limited financial circumstances. I am delighted to inform you that we have been able to find a solution, so we have been able to avoid this unwanted situation. Therefore, when we return in September, we will be opening for a full school day every day.

We will still be deep cleaning our school on a weekly basis, but this process will not interfere with crucial learning time for our children.

Pupil Uniform

We would like (and recommend) all children to wear our school uniform from the first day back to school on September the 2nd. We are aware that some families are particularly anxious about the potential spread of the Covid-19 virus by way their child's clothes and may want to wash them every day. Government guidance is clear that it is not necessary to wash your child's clothes every day, but we are mindful that some of you are going to do this anyway.

This being the case, we don't want the small number of families who will be washing their child's clothes every day to rush out and buy lots of sets of school uniform. If you have chosen to wash their clothes daily, please do the best you can with the clothes they wear to school. We will not be allowing party clothes, football kits, sparkly dresses etc. Clothing should be sensible and preferably in our school colour scheme. Footwear should also be appropriate for school please.

We will review these arrangements regarding school uniform on a month-by-month basis. Please be aware that it is extremely likely that full uniform will be required every day from October.

Pupil Belongings

The guidance for September regarding pupil belongings is very different in September. Children can bring in their own items again, but cannot share them with others. This means your child can bring their lunch boxes, school bags, books and personal stationery in and out of school.

It may be a good idea for you to send your child to school with their own pencil case and stationery in September. We will still provide our children with necessary school stationery if they don't bring their own, e.g. pens and pencils, but there will be no sharing of stationery between different pupils.

Currently, it is looking like our older pupils in Year 5 and Year 6, who walk to and from school on their own, may not be able to bring mobile phones into school. If this is the case in September, we'll let families in these year groups know before the children return.

The guidance also states that children don't need to wear masks in school.

Educational Visits

The guidance states that educational visits can begin in September. However, we have chosen to delay the reintroduction of school trips until the situation locally and nationally is more secure. If we're keeping different classes separate in school, we can't justify taking classes out of school, potentially coming into contact with other people as well as publicly accessible places and objects. There are also issues to consider when travelling on buses and coaches.

Our Year 4 and Year 5 children have swimming lessons as part of their PE provision. Nottinghamshire Swimming Services have informed schools that their service will be running in September. We have made the decision to delay our return to swimming sessions until we can assess the arrangements for ourselves and are happy that sufficient risk reduction measures are in place.

We will be reviewing whether we are able to begin going on educational visits, including swimming lessons, on a regular basis.

Next year's residential experiences have been booked for the week beginning 24/05/21. We are planning for Year 3/4 to go to Walesby and Year 5/6 to go to London. We will share more information about these trips in the new academic year.

Health/Medical Guidance

If your child begins to display symptoms of the virus, you will be contacted to collect her/him from school immediately. Testing for children is now available for children displaying symptoms. Information on how to get a test can be found in the link below, or just 'google' [covid testing uk](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/).

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If the test has a positive result, your child must self-isolate for 7 days and the rest of your household must self-isolate for 14 days. The rest of your child's 'bubble' group will also be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. We will also inform Public Health England and follow their advice.

If the test has a negative result, your child can return to school and your household can end your self-isolation.

If anyone in your household develops a fever or new continuous cough, you are advised to follow the Covid-19 guidance for households: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Potential School Closures

If there are cases of Covid-19 outbreaks, the Department for Education will be involved in all local and national decisions on whether to close schools. This being said, we will always act in the interests of pupil and community safety.

Looking at the events in Leicester, we are making significant plans to be prepared if we do have to close in the autumn term. What we also want is to have an immediate offer of remote education in place from the first day back in September. The arrangements regarding potential future home learning will be shared once they are finalised.

And Finally,

Thank you for taking the time to read all of this information. If you have any questions about anything covered in this update, please feel free to give us a call in school.

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday and we're really looking forward to seeing you all back in school in September.

Yours sincerely,



Nadeem Shah
Headteacher