

All Saints C. of E. (Aided) Infant School

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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs J Redfern

Deputy Head: Mrs L Hardwick



19th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, can I thank you very much indeed for your responses to my questions last week. Your thoughts and comments have been extremely helpful to our planning. Not surprisingly, there are mixed views about the re-opening of school, all of which we respect. I would, however, like to say a special thank-you for your concern for the safety and well-being of staff at this time. We particularly appreciate this, and the partnership we have with you, as we move forward.

The Government has asked infant schools to start the partial re-opening with the youngest children. Currently, we are planning to admit **Reception children** first from **Monday, 1st June 2020**. School staff are in the process of contacting all parents/carers of Reception children to find out how many would like to take up the place.

Please be reassured that the decision as to whether or not to send your child to school is entirely yours. There will be no penalty for non-attendance and any pupil absence will be authorised until the end of the summer term. If you decide not to send your child in the first instance, you can change your mind at a later date. If you would like to discuss this with a member of staff, do contact school and we will be happy to talk with you about your individual circumstances.

We have thought very hard about how we can achieve the safe re-integration of Reception children in the first instance. The most important thing we need you to understand is this:

*If you do choose to send your child into school, please be aware that we will be making significant attempts to ensure **some form** of social distancing throughout our re-opening phase. However, in an infant school setting, it will not be possible for us to guarantee that your child will always maintain a distance from others. The Government has said that primary pupils '**cannot be expected to remain two metres apart from each other and staff.**'*

How it will work:

- The children will be divided into smaller groups of no more than 15, and probably fewer. Mrs Bainbridge and Miss Gibbs will take a group each.
- Arrangements for keyworker children will continue in the normal way. Mrs Hardwick will be taking the keyworker group. Any Reception keyworker children will be allocated to Mrs Bainbridge or Miss Gibbs' group.

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- Each group will each be based in a different classroom and we will endeavour to form a protective 'bubble' around them. They will have staggered entry and exit times. They will remain in their group all day and there will be no mixing with children in other groups.
- Reception children will be able to attend school from **Monday to Thursday**. On Fridays, the school will be deep-cleaned. Keyworker children will be able to attend school on Fridays.
- Children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Hand gel will also be available.
- Staff will use personal protective equipment as appropriate (PPE). Aprons, gloves and face masks will be available to them. Staff have made some brightly coloured, fabric face masks for the children, should you want them to wear them.
- Break times and access to outdoor space through the day will be staggered to create distancing between groups when they are outside.
- Children will eat lunches in the dining area maintaining social distancing rules.
- There will be no whole-school Collective Worship or gatherings.
- Cleaning arrangements have been enhanced. The staff team will be regularly cleaning throughout the day. The caretaker will be cleaning twice a day and undertaking regular deep cleans of priority areas.
- Classroom doors will be propped open (where safe to do so) to limit the use of door handles and aid ventilation.
- Where possible, stationery and other equipment in classrooms will not be shared. Shared materials and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- After-School Clubs will not be running.
- We will not be using supply agency staff to cover any staff absence. Our existing staff members will be re-allocated if possible.
- A 'recovery curriculum' will be delivered which will focus on Personal, Social and Health Education. We know that the last few weeks have been very unsettling for many children and they will need time to adapt to school life once again. We have planned a wide range of well-being activities, such as singing and making music, painting and drawing, playing games and taking part in relaxation activities. Children will be allowed to play.
- Reading folders will not be sent home to prevent any cross-contamination. **We strongly recommend that your child has a school lunch to avoid the need to bring lunch boxes to school.**

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- Senior staff who work between the two infant schools in our collaboration will be based on one site to avoid cross-contamination. Mrs Taylor will be based at Selston and I will be based at All Saints. Any Selston parent/carer who needs to contact me can continue to do so through the Selston school office.

Health/Medical Guidance

- Temperature checks will be carried out at the start of the day for all staff and children entering the building.
- If your child begins to display symptoms of the virus, you will be contacted to collect her/him from school immediately. Testing will be available for children displaying symptoms (and their families) when schools re-open. We are told that 'track and trace' methods will also be used.
- 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 class group will also be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If the test has a negative result, your child can return to school and the rest of your household can end self-isolation.
- Children and families classed as being 'clinically vulnerable' due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. This includes any parent who is pregnant. This means we will not be permitting these children, or any of their siblings, into school until the guidance states otherwise.
- 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>
- Any child who is unwell for any reason, however minor, must stay at home until they are completely well. Any child requiring Calpol, Ibuprofen or antibiotics must stay at home until they no longer need the medication. Children will be able to use inhalers in school.

Parent/Carer Information

- We ask that only one parent/carer accompanies each child to school and that parents/carers do not gather at the entrance gates or in groups on the playground.
- Parents/carers will **not** be able to enter the school building, unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, so we ask that any communication with school continues to be via e-mail to the school office (office@huthwaiteallsaints.notts.sch.uk) or by telephone.

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- Further guidance about drop-off and collection times will be issued to Reception parents/carers before 1st June 2020.
- We have recently heard that any child offered a place in school who is eligible for the free school meal vouchers will **not** be eligible for the vouchers from the date of return. This is regardless of whether or not the place is taken up and is because meals will be cooked in school.

Home Learning

- This will continue in the normal way for Years 1 and 2.
- Reception staff will be planning and delivering work in school, but school staff will do their best to ensure that some work is put online each week for children not attending school.

I appreciate that there is a great deal of information to digest and you may well have questions that have not been answered. I want to reassure you that we will continue to take all the advice that is available to us to ensure that the school is as safe as it can be. Once we have more information, I will update you with plans for other year groups.

As always, do feel free to contact the staff on Seesaw, or me via the school office, if you have any questions.

Thank you again for all your support.

Take care and stay safe.

Warm wishes

Joanna Redfern

Joanna Redfern
Executive Head Teacher