



Christ Church C of E Junior School
London Road
Ramsgate, Kent
CT11 0ZZ
Tel: 01843 593350

Email: headteacher@christ-church-ramsgate.kent.sch.uk

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Having worked through all the guidance from the Department of Education, Local Authority, TISS (Thanet Inclusion Support Services) and NEU (National Education Union), and thoroughly discussed all areas of the school day with all staff members, we feel we are in a strong position to open safely to those Year 6 pupils whose parents have indicated that they are happy for a return to school. Therefore, if the proposed date from the Government goes ahead, we will open the school on Monday 1st June to a wider number of pupils (Year 6), including an increased number of children of key workers. Final advice will be given to schools from the Government on Friday 28th May, so we appreciate that things could still change up until this point, and you, as parents/carers, will have very little time to react. Please rest assured that we will endeavour to provide an update as quickly as possible.

Having undertaken a full risk assessment of our building and staffing provision, we have made arrangements for all Year 6 pupils that have chosen to return to school to be in at the same time. Please share the following information with your child, as the school day will look very different from what they are used to, and so they are ready and prepared for the experience when they come in to school. For all children remaining at home (years 3-6), work for term 6 will continue to be posted on the school website.

The Year 6 teachers have highlighted 4 main class 'bubbles', based on their knowledge of the children and taking into account factors such as social, learning and emotional needs. This is to ensure all the bubbles can be safely managed and effectively taught. All the Year 6 children will be taught by a Year 6 teacher, (although it is unlikely to be their usual teacher), and a teacher from a different year group. This will be in a rotation to allow time for teachers from the other year groups to plan and deliver learning remotely for their own year groups. Two TAs will accompany each 'bubble', and these 4 adults should be the only ones in close contact with their group.

In order to establish effective social distancing, class 'bubble' sizes will be greatly reduced; at this stage this is a maximum of 12 pupils to a class. In order to limit crowding upon entry and exit to the school site, we are operating strict measures to ensure the safety of all stakeholders pupils, parents and staff, in line with Government and Local Authority advice. An element of this will be fluid, staggered start and finish times of the day.

An important difference for parents/carers to the start and end of the day is that there will be no parking on the school site.

Dropping off (St. Mildred's and London Rd):



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The outer school pedestrian gates will open between 8.30 and 9.00am to allow children onto the school site. This slightly extended opening time is in order to support those of you that have 'drop offs' to make for siblings at our feeder schools, which I believe are setting quite prescribed entry and exit times to retain safety in their own settings. If children can walk to school safely on their own, this will reduce crowds at the gate.

If your child cannot safely walk to school on their own, we would request that, if possible, only one adult escorts them to school and drops them off at one of the entry points. We would encourage you not to hang around, and to maintain a 2m distance from other individuals. At this time of the day, parents will not be permitted onto the school site. A member of staff will be present to welcome your child into school safely.

All children will wash their hands with an alcohol gel, and make their way into their newly allocated classroom via the external classroom door, where a teacher and TA will greet them. By arranging entry in this way, we aim to ease congestion at what could potentially be a busy time of the school day, and ensure everyone can maintain the social distancing guidance as required by the Government. A suggestion would be that, if you need to get to work you bring your child in close to 8.30am, and if you don't require this facility you bring them in between 8.45 and 9.00am. The start of the day is something we may need to review should it result in congested footpaths.

Collection:

At the end of the day we appreciate that more parents may wish to collect children from school. To enable this to happen safely, parents will be able to enter the school grounds to meet their child. Again, if children can walk home from school safely on their own, this will help reduce crowds. If you are collecting, please do so individually if you can, but we appreciate that this is not always possible. To enable you to collect your child safely at the end of the day, in line with government recommendations, we will be operating a one way system with **entry via St. Mildred's gate** and **exit via London Rd pedestrian gate**. This will keep everyone heading in the same direction and reduce the congestion we often have at the end of the day. Again, to further reduce congestion, we will be operating a fluid collection time for parents; gates will be open from 2.30pm – 3.05pm for you to collect your child. Please ensure you are following social distancing when on the school site and line up for collection outside your child's classroom. Staff will then arrange for your child to join you. Exit from the playground will be via either the Year 3 gate or the main field gates, weather permitting. If walking home on their own, these children will leave at 3.05pm via the London Rd gate.

If your child is not being collected, we are asking all parents to sign the new permission slip at the end of the letter to confirm that you give permission for your child to walk home by themselves and to do so via the new exit from the school, even if you have given permission previously.

The key worker children will potentially exit from the same classroom doors they entered in the morning in the same way as the rest of the school, or will be collected after 3:15pm from the main office.



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During the day:

An Addendum to the School Behaviour Policy will be available for you to view and discuss with your child before we return to school.

Whilst they are at school, children and staff will only be able to socialise with the children and staff from their bubble, following the 2 metre guidelines.

Throughout the school day, access to and from the classrooms will be via the playground door, with the corridors in each area only being used for access to the toilet facilities. Lockers will not be used. The children's coats, bags and lunch boxes etc. will stay by them all day. We will provide basic, labelled resources necessary, for the sole use of one child (no sharing!). Children may wish to bring in their own pencil case from home. If they do so, this needs to be a wipeable surface, that will not be damaged by antibacterial spray/wipes (sorry no fluffy pencil cases!). These pencil cases will need to stay in school and not go back and forth each day.

Although pencil cases and reading books may be brought in from home, please do not allow your child to bring anything additional to school e.g. Pokemon cards, tennis balls, footballs etc. as we wish to minimise anything coming into school. Bikes and scooters should also be left at home (due to potentially adding to congestion when accessing or departing from school. In addition, mobile phones should not be brought into school unless they are absolutely necessary. If they are brought in then they will need to be switched off on entry to the school, but remain the responsibility of each individual and in each child's bag for the duration of the school day. Phones should then only be switched on when leaving the site.

When children are in class, and when moving around school, we will expect them to observe the social distancing rules that have become the norm. There will be less movement around the classroom, and the children will be expected to remain seated for much of the day. As much as is possible, we will build movement breaks into the school day. Desks will be separated, distance markers will be used on the playground and equipment must not be shared.

At no time will the children be in a large group; collective worship will be in class each day, the children will eat at their tables in the classroom (or possibly outside, weather permitting) and have allocated hall times, playtimes and toilet breaks on a rota system. During all break times, they will only be allowed to socialise (2m apart) with the same children from their class 'bubble'. **If, for any reason, there is a need for 2 bubbles to be in the playground at the same time, there will be allocated areas that each bubble must stay in.**

Playground equipment will be out of bounds and lunches will be shortened, so the children will be given an additional playground slot in the afternoon.

We will not be able to provide school dinners, therefore your child will be required to bring in a packed lunch. If you are in receipt of free school meals, you are receiving vouchers for this directly to cover the cost of the required packed lunch.



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Desks will be cleaned during the day and handwashing routines will be strongly reinforced. The school will be thoroughly cleaned at the end and the start of each day, to ensure it is as clean as possible.

Key worker children who have been attending throughout will notice a more formal approach to learning, with their work following the guidance set for home learners.

One of the recommendations to reduce transmission of COVID 19 is the daily washing of clothes. We understand how extremely challenging this would be, with children often having limited amounts of school uniform. To make this easier for parents/carers, we would like the children to attend school in non-school uniform. Please make sure they are wearing clothes suitable for a day at school.

PPE:

Although the government have stated that PPE is not required by teaching staff to return to the workplace, we, as a school, feel that it is up to the individual to identify for themselves if they would feel more protected by choosing to wear PPE.

As a school, we have purchased a variety of equipment for staff, although this may only be used at certain points during the day when close proximity to another adult/child is necessary, for example if a child were to fall over and require first aid treatment. This in itself would not be dealt with much differently than it was previously, as adults always wear gloves etc. when carrying out any first aid procedures. I would like to reassure you that, contrary to various negative newspaper reports, should your child have an accident in school, they will most definitely be looked after by adults, and not be expected to deal with it themselves.

Breakfast and after school club:

In line with the guidance we have received, we will not be able to offer before and after school clubs, although we will review this regularly.

Guidance on illness from the government:

If a pupil or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and self-isolate. Their fellow household members should also self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested as soon as possible. If the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting when better and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

If the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their 'bubble' within their childcare or education setting must be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms. Children who develop symptoms



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whilst in school will be sensitively isolated in a first aid area by the office team. Parents/carers will be called immediately and arrangements for collection must take priority. Please ensure we have your most up to date contact details and you can be contacted easily. Please email any changes to office@christ-church-ramsgate.kent.sch.uk.

Please click on following link to access up to date information from the government:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

As further guidance is given by the Government or Local Authority, adjustments to this plan may be needed in the future, and we will keep you informed of any changes as soon as we can. We have assessed the potential risks of opening the school to a greater number of children and, while we cannot be 100% risk free, we are confident we are in a position to safely do the best we can with the guidance we have been given.

As I have said before, it is entirely your decision as to whether or not you feel comfortable sending your child back in to school at this time. I completely respect your decision and there will be no chasing up in terms of attendance, so please don't worry - it's been a difficult enough year as it is!

Thank you for your continued support.

All the best,

N. Tucker

Neil Tucker
Headteacher



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May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: PERMISSION TO WALK TO HOME

Please complete the slip below to indicate if you give permission for your child to walk home exiting school via London Road at the end of the day.

Yours sincerely

N. Tucker

Mr N Tucker
Headteacher

.....
To: Christ Church CE Junior School

Child's name Year Group

I give permission for my child to walk home after school at 3.05 pm
and understand that this will be via the London Road Exit.

I do not give permission for my child to walk home.

Signed Parent/Carer

Dated



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