



Church Hill Infants News

Newsletter August 2020

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@CHISThurmaston

Key dates....

Year 1 and Year 2

Weds 26th August 2020

Foundation Stage

Miss Kirby's Class

Tues 1st September

9.00am to 1.30pm

Miss Jeffery & Mrs

Corcoran's Class

Weds 2nd September

9.00am to 1.30pm

Miss Jones' Class

Thurs 3rd September

9.00am to 1.30pm

All Foundation children will start full time on Monday 7th September 2020

Contacting school...

If you have a query or would like to discuss something with the class teacher then please contact school and we will arrange for you to be contacted by telephone.

Any general queries or questions can be asked via the Studybugs app.

A message from the Head ...

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are really looking forward to having our Church Hill Community back together again and we are all ready to get back to some kind of normality from September. Over the summer break the school staff have been exceptionally busy planning and preparing for a safe and happy return to school after what has been an exceptional few months of uncertainty. We want school life to be as normal as it can be to help our children settle and re-engage with all aspects of school life. However, some aspects of school will feel very different. I hope the information in this newsletter will provide some reassurance of how our school has planned for a safe return to school.

We are very aware that for many of our families who have remained at home during the school closure period, coming back to school will bring mixed feelings of hope, certainty but also a little apprehension. We understand that some of you will be concerned about the academic impact of lockdown and school closure—home schooling is difficult and although we have seen the amazing work that has been happening, we will all want to ensure that our children continue to make good progress and that any gaps they have, will be quickly addressed.

We are hopeful that with the number of Covid cases dropping in the area that there will be less disruption to school but will be prepared to use our strict procedures if an outbreak occurs. We have reviewed all risk assessments and will continue to follow strict hygiene procedures to minimize risk.

We are now living in a world where there is more reliance on remote technology, completely changing the way we communicate and do things. We know that dialogue will be vital to support a successful return to school and would like to support our families as much as we can. As social distancing will still be in place, we will continue to use more remote communication for the foreseeable future and I am thankful for the continued support from our parents who have had to adapt to these changes so quickly during the last academic year. Details of the different ways that parents can contact us are included in this newsletter.

This year, making new friends and getting to know their teachers and school routine will be more important than ever. We have planned a fantastic recovery curriculum which is aimed to support our children settle happily back into school life. If parents are worried or concerned about their child's wellbeing or any other matter please do get in touch with us as working together will be key to a successful start!

We have a few staffing changes for next academic year which I would like to tell you about. We will be welcoming Miss Jasmine Jones who will be joining the Foundation Stage Team and Mr Ram who will be taking on a new role as a Sports Coach Apprentice. Unfortunately, we weren't able to say a proper good bye to Miss Dolby and Miss Jones who have gone on to pastures new. I am sure parents will join me in wishing them all the best for the next chapter in their career.

Once again I would like to say how grateful the staff and I are for all the support you have shown us during these unprecedented times. We really are looking forward to working with you as we move into the next phase; working together to keep the safety and happiness of our children paramount at all times.

Kind regards,

Meera Bulsara



Please find a summary of the main day to day arrangements which will help to keep our school community safe.

- No visitors will be allowed on the school site unless pre-arranged
- We will continue with robust hand washing and respiratory hygiene
- There will be enhanced cleaning arrangements throughout school
- Mass gatherings like assemblies will not be planned but we will find alternative ways (virtual) to bring the school community together.
- Shared spaces like the hall will be timetabled and cleaned in between use.
- The children will be taught by their teacher and a Learning Support Assistant.
- To enable a full educational offer, some teachers and staff (PE coach/ Lunch staff etc.) may need to work across groups and if reasonably practical to do so will keep 2 metres distance.
- Drop off and pick up times for bubbles will be staggered to minimise the convergence of groups and increase safety. However all children will get the same amount of learning time at school.
- Playtime and lunchtime will be staggered so that bubbles are kept separate throughout the day
- Children should wear their school uniform and this should be washed each night and your child showered.
- As we do not have the space to keep our groups consistently separate, there will be no before or after school clubs available. This will be reviewed after half term.
- We understand that social distancing is not always practical or possible with young children. Therefore children will be kept in consistent groups and the school day will be structured to avoid contact between these groups.
- Children in Year 2 and Year 1 will be kept in class size groups.
- Mixed Foundation Stage and Year 1 classes will remain as one Year group bubble. This is due to the nature of our open plan base and how the children access learning in the area.
- Children will only be required to bring a small book bag (that can fit in a drawer). **Please note large back packs are not allowed**

Procedures for Covid Cases and isolation

Confirmed case/ Isolation Procedures – (This process has changed slightly since the summer term)

- If a child falls ill during the day with Covid-19 symptoms, they will be isolated with a member of staff in a separate room and parents asked to collect their child.
- Any child sent home must self-isolate and parents must make arrangements to get their child tested.
- If a child or adult within a bubble is **confirmed** with Coronavirus, all children and adults within the group will be sent home and told to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Children must not attend school if they have tested positive or if they have been in close contact with someone who has coronavirus.
- If your child has been shielding and you are unsure if they can attend school, please contact our school office.
- Activities to support online home learning will be uploaded by the class teacher daily through Seesaw for any bubbles isolating. This will start from the **second day** of isolation and until the children return to school.

Drop off and collection arrangements

To keep everyone safe and support social distancing, we will be asking parents to adhere to their allocated time slot to help with social distancing at school start and finish times. We understand that this could be tricky due to work commitments and appreciate our parents' support with this to minimise risk. **Gathering at school gates will not be allowed and to ensure swift and safe movement during our busiest times we have put the following procedures and systems in place.**

Collection Point	Class Teachers	Start Time	Finish Time
1	Year FS/Y1 – JJ Miss Jones	9.00	3.00
2	Year FS/Y1 – WK Miss Kirby	9.00	3.00
3	Year FS/Y1 – J/C Miss Jeffery and Mrs Corcoran	9.00	3.00
1	Year 1 - B/B Mrs Basigara/ Mrs Broom	8.45	2.45
3	Year 1 - C/P Mrs Creighton/ Mrs Purnell	8.45	2.45
1	Year 2 - L/E Mrs Lissaman Mrs Elliott	8.30	2.30
2	Year 2 – OM Mr Mayhew	8.30	2.30
3	Year 2 – KD Mrs Dickens	8.30	2.30

- Only 1 parent will be allowed to drop off and pick up their child
- Parent and child must queue up at their allocated year group time.
- 3 drop off/ collection points will be used at any one time per year group
- Teachers will be present to greet each class/line at collection points and will escort their class to the classroom
- If you wish to drop off siblings at the same time then they must both arrive at the earlier drop off and both stay until the latest pick up. Members of staff will be available to escort these children to their individual classes. This arrangement must be discussed with school in the first instance.
- Although a quick communication is perfectly acceptable, staff will not be able to have face to face meetings with parents during these times. (If you would like to speak to your child's teacher, please call the school office to arrange a telephone discussion)
- Children will need to carry their own book bag and any other belongings
- There will be strict one way systems during drop off and collection points.
- Members of staff will be present to help parents familiarise themselves with the new systems.



Lunch time arrangements

Lunchtime at school is an important and normal part of the school day. We know that eating together helps to support good social skills and we want our children to maximise from this experience. Our kitchen will be functioning as normal but we have reviewed our menu to ensure the most popular as well as healthy dishes are cooked for our children. Meals for all children at school are free, and parents could save at least £15 a week per child if they have a meal at school. To ensure lunchtimes are as safe as they can be, we have increased cleaning and put further systems in place to ensure dining at school is safer. Below, you will find information of some of the main ways in which we will do this.

- Each year group will have their own sitting and seating arrangements and class bubbles will be kept distanced from other bubbles
- Hand washing for all staff and pupils before and after each sitting.
- To avoid unnecessary movement, pupils within bubbles will arrive and leave the dining hall at the same time.
- Staff have been inducted to follow a strict cleaning regime which will take place between each sitting.
- Staff helping children will wear appropriate disposable PPE (aprons, gloves)
- To minimise movement in the hall, plated meals will be ready on tables. Children will not request their choices at the servery.
- There will be more sittings to ensure children are safely spaced out and not mixing with another bubble.
- After meals have been taken, bubbles will be escorted to their designated play area zone.

School Menu

We will continue to have three choices per day and are attaching the menu for you to look at with your child. Please ensure your child knows what their meal choice will be for each day.

If your child's dietary and/or medical needs have changed please update us by calling the school office.

For our youngest children we will collect meal choices at the beginning of the day.



Other information ...

-Each class will have one PE session a week, we have made the decision that children will come to school dressed in their outdoor PE kit (please ensure suitable outdoor footwear). Therefore they will not require a PE kit / bag in school at all. We will inform you of the PE days in the first week of term.

-As the children will be playing in designated areas on the field to allow for social distancing of bubbles we will require all pupils to bring a pair of wellington boots to school. Please send these with your child on their first day and they will remain in school for the term.



The unusual circumstances that we have faced have had a significant impact on all pupils, and when we return to school in the Autumn Term we will have this at the forefront of our planning and provision. We are very excited to deliver our “Essentials for life” Recovery Curriculum so that our educational offer rightly continues to be broad and balanced. We will be spending the first of part of the term focusing on developing relationships in the new classes between the pupils but also between the pupils and their teacher(s). Equally as important is for our children to re-engage with learning and routine; igniting their passion for school life. As a result, we have reviewed and adapted our curriculum so that the most important skills are taught from the onset. We will be putting a greater focus on wellbeing, personal, social and emotional development as well as assessing children’s gaps in the core essentials so that they can continue to thrive at school. We have planned some very exciting whole school (social distanced) events to help our children re-engage with learning and school life. The school team are really excited about using creative and imaginative opportunities through story books, art and outdoor learning to help us tackle relevant / current themes in a child friendly way. We feel its really important for our children to be able to express their experiences, the happy ones but also the sad ones— our job will be to give them the tools to do so in a safe and supportive way!



Developing and strengthening friendships will be paramount for our children and therefore our main preventative measure will be to keep our class groups separate and clean used spaces regularly. To deliver our full curriculum for infant aged children, we will keep normal seating arrangements to help us overcome both educational and logistical challenges and help our children to have a normal experience of school life as much as is safe to do so.

Home learning— Seesaw will now be our main platform for setting homework and communicating with your child’s teacher. If your child’s group needs to isolate we will continue to support learning at home in this way.

What classroom learning will look like for the first few weeks...

- Work has been carried out during the summer holiday to ensure that the classrooms and the wider school environment begins to resemble pre– lockdown. We take pride in our school and we want it to be warm and inviting for the children when they return
- Effective relationships will be developed through planned and unplanned social activities and experiences – staff will get to know the new children in their class.
- Consideration will be given to each pupils well being and how they have settled back into school life. Staff in school will offer any support needed to address any difficulties children are having.
- We will remind the children of our school values, rules and Covid Safe Conduct
- Learning will be thematic and there will be a lot of focus on art and creative activities in the first few weeks
- Encouraging children to read books aligned to their reading and phonic ability will be one of our first core skill priorities. Books will be sent home in the first few weeks once assessments are completed.

We will continue to use seesaw next academic year and will be sharing our classroom learning and homework this way. As always, we value your support and therefore we will ask that you work with your child on their homework and ask about the learning they have been doing in school.

Free School Meal Shopping Vouchers

We are aware that the pandemic has resulted in a change of financial circumstances for many of our families and this may mean that you are now in receipt of new or additional benefits. . Although school lunch vouchers are not being provided by the government during the new academic year there may be other ways in which your child could benefit if your family is eligible. Schools also receive additional funding which can help with the provision, pay for experiences, contribute to trips or additional support for your child.

If you are now in receipt of benefits and/ or are experiencing difficulties please email the school office for an application form.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Home Learning and Transition through Seesaw



We are really pleased that parents have found the “meet the teacher” transition videos helpful on seesaw. If you haven't already then please log into seesaw so that you and your child will be able to see the activities and their new class teachers.

Please note that only teachers will be able to see the work you post—seesaw is not a public forum.

If you have lost the code or need further help with seesaw please contact us via Studybugs.

Communication with school

School staff will not be able to have face to face meetings without a pre-arranged meeting and therefore we will rely much more on remote technology. One of the most efficient way of communicating with us is through Studybugs. If you haven't already done so please download the app and register your child. We will send regular communications via this system

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents> or download the app via Apple Store or Google Play

Alternatively, if your query is more about curriculum and learning you can message your child's class teacher through seesaw, our home learning platform.

All other appointments can be arranged by contacting the school office through studybugs

Meera Bulsara—Headteacher

Claire Elliott—Deputy Head/ SENCO

Heather Creighton—Assistant Head

Now and again we may also send you a survey to help us gather information