

Shinewater Primary School and Nursery



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Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for all of your support and encouragement since the partial closure of schools in March 2020. The experience has strengthened our school community and we are incredibly proud of our pupils for continuing with their learning through our high quality distance learning programme.

In addition to opening the school to children of key workers and children requiring greater care throughout the duration of lockdown, from June 1st the government decision was made to bring Years 1, 6, Reception and Nursery back to school in small 'bubbles' of 15 children maximum. As a result of careful planning and quality assured risk assessments, the pupils' return has been very successful. With effective and rigorous measures in place, transmission risks have been reduced and the school is deemed COVID-Safe.

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Now that the prevalence of coronavirus has decreased and the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, we look forward to welcoming back all pupils back this autumn.

We are working hard to make the necessary preparations for the pupils' return on **Monday 7th September 2020** (please note staggered starting dates for Reception pupils have been sent out separately in our Parent Quick Guide and also the information booklet). Proportional protective measures for children and staff will be in place, which ensures that all pupils receive a high quality education that enables them to thrive and progress.

In welcoming all children back this autumn, we would like to draw your attention to the following prevention system of controls that will be in place:

- 1) **There will be minimised contact with others who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.**
- 2) **Your child will be provided with opportunities throughout the school day to cleanse their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.**
- 3) **Good respiratory hygiene will be reinforced by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it approach.'**
- 4) **There will be an enhanced cleaning schedule in place to ensure frequently touched surfaces are cleaned often**



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5) The number of contacts your child has during the day will be minimised and social distancing will be maintained wherever possible

In order to reduce the number of people your child comes into contact with, your child will remain mostly with their class and within their 'year group bubble.' Contact with children / staff in the same year group may take place, however contact with children / staff in other year groups will be minimised. Classrooms in Years 2 to 6 will also be arranged with forward facing desks. Pupils in Years 1, EYFS and Nursery will be following normal protocols with distancing where possible.

To reduce contact with others, each year group will have a staggered start and finish time. Drop off and collection points will also be different. Information regarding your class bubble staggered starts and finish times has been sent via the Parent Quick Guide. This information can also be found on the website.

Please note that parents will not be allowed onto the school premises unless an appointment has been made in advance. Parents must abide by the social distancing rules and one-way system put in place when dropping off / collecting their child(ren).

PLAYTIMES AND LUNCHTIMES



Playtimes and lunchtimes will also be staggered to avoid children mixing with children from other year groups. Each year group will have equipment to play with however this will be frequently cleaned and sterilised.

Children will eat lunch in their classrooms and will only be allowed packed lunches until further notice. Children eligible for free school meals will receive a packed lunch provided by the school's catering team.

Please note access to food vouchers will no longer be available after the summer holidays.

ASSEMBLIES

Daily assemblies where children congregate in the hall will also stop until further notice. Assemblies will still take place however, but these will be delivered by video and shown in your child's classroom each day. This includes our weekly celebration assembly and therefore sadly means parents will no longer be able to attend.

ATTENDANCE



Please note that attendance from Monday 7th September is mandatory and the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

The guidance states that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health and academic impacts of being out of school. School attendance is therefore mandatory and as usual, our attendance officer Cliff Hubbard will be on hand to support families. If

you have any concerns or your child is anxious about returning, we will ensure the right support is in place to address this.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND FACE MASKS

We do encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. If you and your child need to use public transport to get to school, please ensure you follow the guidelines that a face mask must be worn. *Any* face masks worn to school must be removed when you arrive. Children must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it. Hands must be washed immediately and the face mask disposed of in a covered bin. Face masks are not required to be worn at school.

WRAP AROUND CARE AND CLUBS



Although the school will not be able to run its extensive extra-curricular clubs and activities straight away, we will be looking to resume Breakfast Club and Twilights Club from 14th September in order to support our working parents. Please note however, the service will be different as the children attending must be in small, consistent groups. More information about the revised arrangements for Breakfast and Twilights Club will be sent before the end of the term, along with details about how to book and pay in advance.

SPECIALIST TEACHERS



Our school's curriculum will remain broad and ambitious; all pupils will continue to be taught a wide range of subjects. We are fortunate to have specialist teachers in Computing, PE and Outdoor Learning. These subjects will continue to be taught and measures will be in place so that staff can safely move between classes. Specialist teachers remain socially distanced from pupils and any shared equipment subject to rigorous cleaning regimes.

UNIFORM



Please note that from Monday 7th September, full school uniform is expected to be worn. Current guidance states that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. Please ensure the children wear school shoes and that PE kit has been checked and still fit.

We do hope this letter helps to provide an overview for what September may bring as we continue to develop our 'new normal' school routines. Reminders will be emailed towards the end of the summer holidays.

Thank you for your continued support and positive messages.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Nicki Kaufman & Mrs Michelle Burbidge
Co-headteachers