



SETTLE
WORK HARD! PLAY HARD!

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr R Wright M.Ed BA (Hons)

18th December 2020

Dear Parent /Carer

A big thank you for your support of our school during this difficult term. The parent and community support has been fantastic and very much appreciated. The children have been brilliant and we feel that very good progress has been made toward catching up on lost learning during lockdown. Thank you for your patience, kind words and understanding.

My personal thanks also to the staff, who together have worked very hard behind the scenes during this last year and have proved themselves to be an excellent team. Without their support and co-operation, the task of complying with Covid guidelines and restrictions would be all the more difficult.

In many ways the education staff are the unsung heroes of the pandemic. The dedication, passion and enthusiasm that colleagues have shown in remaining open, to allow children to continue their learning and have some normality and certainty during a really unsettled time has been, amazing. That staff have done this whilst dealing with their own personal worries and circumstances is all the more impressive. The staff should feel extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Let's hope with the introductions of vaccines to protect the most vulnerable we can begin to get back to some normality.

Breaking News! Schools and childcare settings: return in January 2021

I have received some new government guidance over the last 24hours and as such I have included some key information and links below for your information. As well as primary school advice I have included some advice for secondary schools also and early years settings, as a number of our parents have children attending these establishments. This is general information only however and for specific advice relating to other establishments please refer to their websites and newsletters directly for additional details.

Primary Schools

Government guidance was published 17 December 2020. Primary schools should resume on-site provision as planned from their advertised first day of term – in our case this will Tuesday 5th January 2021. Our staff will attend a training day on 4th January 2021. All pupils will be allowed to attend as they have since the start of the school year with routines and class bubbles continuing as last term.

Our Federation of Schools will continue to follow the advice set out in the [actions for schools during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) and continue to follow their Covid Risk Assessments, which will be further updated in the New Year.

A word about secondary schools

To support public health efforts during the return to school in January 2021, the Local Authority are offering secondary schools in England access to additional coronavirus (COVID-19) testing from the first week of January. This will help deliver the national priority of keeping as many pupils and teachers as possible in school beyond the start of term, minimising the spread of the virus and disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19) cases arising in education settings.

Secondary-age pupils are being prioritised for testing in response to the recent high rates of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Please note - Primary schools will return as normal and these measures do not apply to early years providers.

All schools with secondary-age pupils (including special schools and alternative provision) will be offered the opportunity to test their pupils, reaching as many pupils as possible from the week of the 4 January. The government will encourage as many as possible to take up the offer.

In these schools with secondary-age pupils, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13) are expected to access on-site education provision from each school's advertised first day of term and should be prioritised for testing. All other pupils should not attend that week and must be provided with remote education until 11th January when they should return to school and resume face-to-face attendance. Pupils will not need to have had a test in order to return to school on 11th January.

The Christmas Period

Throughout the Christmas period, all children and young people should continue to comply with the rules set out for the tier they are in, and parents are asked to help ensure their children are following these rules. That particularly includes those related to mixing with other households when they are not at school.

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) remains very low.

When we return to school, remember that for the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools such as ours, have taken action and have protocols in place to reduce risks still further.

Transport

The [transport to school and other places of education](#) guidance remains in place.

Those involved in the provision of home to school or college transport must do all that is reasonably practicable to maximise social distancing where possible and minimise the risk of transmission. Local authorities are not required to uniformly apply social distancing guidelines for public transport on dedicated school or college transport. However, distancing should still be put in place within vehicles wherever possible.

This means that where fewer children and young people are attending school, particularly during the first week of term, sufficient levels of capacity should be maintained to maximise social distancing, including through the use of vacant seats where possible.

In accordance with advice from PHE, children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college. This does not apply to people who are [exempt from wearing a face covering](#) on public transport.

Sport and physical education

We will be able to resume sport and physical education from the New Year as per our Federation Covid-19 risk assessment guidelines.

Drama and Music

Restrictions continue for live performances and singing as per our current risk assessment.

Out-of-school activities and wraparound childcare

Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare can continue to operate for face-to-face provision for children who are in early years settings and primary school

I hope you find this information helpful. Have a wonderful Christmas and stay safe during this festive period.

With best wishes

Richard Wright

Executive Headteacher