

St. John's C of E Primary School

Clifton (Main Office and Junior Site):
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3rd September 2021

Children in Years 1-6

Re: Arrangements for the New Academic Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful break and enjoyed time with friends and family over the summer. We are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday next week and settling into their new class. I'm sure we are all hoping that this academic year will see a return to normality after the previous 18 months of disruption. Already, it has been great to set up the school to enable our usual class and school practices to resume once again. Along with the practical information for each year group at the end of this letter, I have attached details below of the changes to covid restrictions - please read this carefully.

COVID & Returning to School

The government have issued updated guidance for schools that reflects the wider guidance for society as a whole. There is a strong desire for education to return to as close to normal as possible with minimal disruption, there are still some strict measures that need to remain in place to reduce the likelihood of transmission. Below I have detailed the measures that will remain in school as well as the changes, please read these carefully.

What's the Same?

The following remain critical elements in preventing transmission:

- Regular hand washing - on arrival, after break, before eating after toileting.
- Personal hygiene - Catch it, Bin it, Kill it, sneezing/coughing into your elbow etc.
- Ventilation - good circulation of air in all spaces, government will be supplying CO₂ monitors to support this
- Enhanced cleaning - frequently touched surfaces continue to have additional cleaning
- Lateral flow testing - staff and parents are encouraged to do this twice weekly
- Symptoms - If your child has 'traditional' covid symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste or smell), they must stay at home and you are advised to get a PCR test. If this is positive, your child will need to isolate for 10 days. Since Covid-19 in children does not necessarily show as the 3 publicised symptoms, if they are not feeling "right", keep them at home until they feel better.

What's different?

- **No** isolation for close contacts - if a child or staff member is identified as a close contact they **do not need to isolate**, as long as they are under 18 or have been double vaccinated. If a sibling or parent has symptoms or tests positive your child can be in school, staff can also be in school if someone in their household tests positive or has symptoms. In all cases NHS Track &

Trace will contact you and advise you to take a PCR test asap. Children and staff **may continue to attend school**, even while waiting for your PCR result (unless you have symptoms).

- No bubbles - classrooms can return to normal, children can mix and share spaces, resources can be shared, playtimes can be together and pick up and drop off can return to usual times (LRR 9:00 & 3:30; WR 8:45 & 3:15) rather than staggered.
- Parents/carers will be able to drop off and pick up from the playground - see class specific notes below.
- No need to socially distance - children, families and staff no longer need to socially distance, but some may still wish to do so.
- Optional face coverings outside - this will no longer be an expectation outside the school building.
- Parents will be allowed in the school building - this will be by appointment or for a pre-arranged meeting only - such as for Welcome Meetings detailed below. Parents will need to wear a face covering while moving inside the building.

We very much hope that the above changes will allow us to resume the education that we know your children need. It is important for parents to be aware that all schools have been asked to consider contingency plans should there be a large number of cases in school - this may be the introduction of face coverings or more significant measures such as a return to bubbles for a limited time.

While we want to return school to normal, we are very aware that this is a big step and we are therefore building up to some of these things gradually. Therefore playtimes will be staggered between year groups at the start, services will be in year groups initially, class teachers will focus on developing that sense of belonging and making clear the routines. We will take everything at a slower pace to ensure everyone is comfortable and clear about the expectations.

Hopefully you will have shared the information (transition powerpoints) and virtual tours from the school website with your child over the holidays, if you haven't this might be an idea over the weekend. If you have any particular concerns that your child's teacher should know, please email them either ahead of Monday or in the first few weeks; it is much better that they are alerting to any anxiety sooner so that we can work together to support your child.

What follows below is specific information for each year group, in particular, it details the arrangements for the start and end of the day - please note that for some these have changed from last year *and* before the pandemic. Also please be aware that new EYFS will be continuing to use the Shrubbery Gardens entrance during the settling-in period to provide a quiet space for children to say goodbye to their grown-ups. If this time clashes with you dropping off a sibling elsewhere in the school, please contact the EYFS team who will be happy to assist you. The Welcome Meeting will also be an opportunity to hear specific information about each year group and to ask questions, please do try and attend but we will send out information for those who are unable to.

LRR: Year 1&2

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children into Y1&2 next week. Below we have outlined a few aspects of the 'daily routines' so that you know what to expect on the first day back to school.

Drop off: Falcons, Harriers and Owls are dropped off on the playground. All children are welcome to play on the playground when the gates open until the bell rings at 9:00. At 8.50 the classrooms will be

open and teachers will be out on the playground to greet the children and parents. From 8.50 children are welcome to slowly make their way into their classroom where they will have their morning task waiting for them. The bell will ring at 9.00 to signal that all children are to now say goodbye to their grown-ups and make their way into their classroom.

Hawks and Kestrels can be dropped off to the **classroom side door** every day (next to the canopy just off the ramp). The area under the canopy is an extension of the classroom so we would ask that parents and children avoid waiting in this area. All children are welcome to play on the playground when the gates open until the bell rings at 9:00. At 8.50 the classrooms will be open and teachers will be at the classroom door to greet the children and parents. From 8.50 children are welcome to slowly make their way into their classroom where they will have their morning task waiting for them. The bell will ring at 9.00 to signal that all children are to now say goodbye to their grown-ups and make their way into their classroom

Pick up: **Falcons, Harriers and Owls** should be collected from the playground at 3.30. They will be bought out onto the playground by the class teacher and safely dismissed. This can be a very busy time so we ask parents to please stand well away from the glass doors so the children can be safely handed over to you. **Kestrels** parents wait against the wall/railings on the slope and **Hawks** parents wait by the electric glass doors. At 3.30 teachers will open the side doors to the classroom and safely hand the children over to their grown-ups.

Don't forget: All children should bring their book bags/coats etc. and hang these on their pegs which are outside the classroom. Only **one key ring** on the book bags please. **No pencil cases or rucksacks please.** Each child will need a drink bottle and to wear their P.E. kit to school on P.E days (tbc). Please name everything! Developing independence is really important so please say goodbye at the door, and insist children take responsibility for hanging up their own bags, remember their reading book and change it if necessary.

Finally, if you have any other questions do not hesitate to contact either your child's class teacher or Miss Sellers, via email or catch us at the end of the day.

Welcome Meeting: 2:30pm Wednesday 8th September in LRR Hall, entrance via the office

WR: Year 3&4

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back next week, particularly Year 3s who are new to WR. We know getting the first day right is really important so please find below the 'daily routine' and a few reminders.

Drop off and pick up:

All classes apart from Carnival will go into their classrooms from under the canopy, Carnival go into their classroom via the steps by the sports pitches. For the first week we will keep the systems similar to Year 2, the children will line up in the playground in their classes when the bell goes in the morning and at the end of the day will be dismissed from their classroom to ensure they have found you.

From the second week, the children can just come into their class in the morning when the bell rings. For pick up from week 2 onwards, it would be good for you to arrange a consistent place where you will meet your child in the playground. We explain very clearly and remind the children that if their adult isn't there to come straight back to class.

Don't forget: All children should bring their book bags/coats etc. and hang these on their pegs which are in the classroom. Only **one key ring** on the book bags please. **No pencil cases please.** Each child will need a drink bottle and to wear their P.E. kit to school on P.E days (Friday and one other day tbc). Please name everything!

Welcome Meeting: 2:30pm Tuesday 7th September in WR Hall, entrance via the office

WR: Year 5&6

Drop Off and Pick Up:

Children in Y5&6 are allowed to walk to and from school without an adult as long as you have given permission; the office will send all year 5&6 parents a form via ParentMail to do this. The form will also allow you to request that your child is permitted to bring in a mobile phone. Children in Muller and Guppy should enter through the main door off the playground up the steps; children in Cabot should use the side door by the top of the slide; children in Campbell should use the side door via the cloakroom on the top playground and children in Brunel should use the back door of their classroom via the top playground. At the end of the day, children will make their own way back out onto the playground to either walk home or be collected - it is useful to have a regular place to meet. Please remind your child that if they are not collected they should head back into the classroom or up to the office.

Don't forget: Each class has a cloakroom for their bag, coat etc. packed lunches should be kept in their bag until lunchtime. Please ensure everything is named so that it can be found / returned. Children will generally have PE on a Wednesday afternoon (+1 extra day TBC) so need to arrive at school wearing their PE kit.

Welcome Meeting: 2:30pm Thursday 9th September in WR Hall, entrance via the office.

INSET Days 2021-22:

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

Friday 22nd October 2021

Monday 1st November 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Friday 18th February 2022

Monday 25th April 2022

We look forward to welcoming you all next week!

Kind regards

Mr. Justin Hoye
Headteacher