

Sutton-at-Hone C of E Primary School

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Head of School

Mrs K Trowell

27th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all managed to have an enjoyable summer – even if it wasn't quite the summer you had planned!

We are looking forward to welcoming you all back to school next week and extend a warm welcome to the new families joining us. We would like to remind you of some of the measures in place to reduce the risks to the children, staff and yourselves.

Arrangements for the return

We will be operating as year group bubbles – this means the children will not be mixing with children from other year groups. We are limiting the movement of staff between bubbles, however there are some staff who will need to work with children in various year groups and additional precautions will be in place for them.

When the children return, we will spend a short amount of time in the first week reflecting on the summer and the period of school closure in a similar way to normal, learning the new routines of their new classroom and talking about their aims and goals for the year – setting their 1% that they want to work on to improve. We will also be carrying out some assessments in English and Maths which will enable us to quickly assess gaps and adjust the curriculum in order to address the areas identified.

I am sure you have seen in the news the debate about face coverings – as this is an ever changing landscape there may be amendments to our plans but at the moment all staff have been offered a visor, particularly those staff who are working in close proximity to individuals or small groups of children. Back in the summer term, I was concerned about the impact on the children seeing staff wearing face coverings, however they are all used to it now in shops and out and about so although staff will not be wearing face coverings whilst they are teaching, there may be some instances where adults will be wearing masks around the school. We will talk about all of this with the children and will ensure that they are not frightened or concerned. At this stage, in line with government guidelines, children (unless we have been advised otherwise by medical professionals) may not wear face masks/coverings in school.

By now, the children are very aware of the need to wash hands regularly and this will be a big part of their daily routine.

At playtime and lunchtime, the children will be allocated zones in the playground to play which means they do not mix with other year groups and they will be allocated zones to eat lunch which will be cleaned thoroughly between sittings.



Communal areas will have limited use and will be cleaned down by staff between uses.

Drop off and pick up has been arranged so that we do not have all 420 children and parents arriving/leaving at the same time. The easiest way for parents/carers was to choose surnames so that you do not need to wait around. With this in mind, please ensure you vacate the school site and Church Road as soon as you have dropped off/collected your child ensuring that you follow the correct route as you arrive and leave. We need to all work together to make sure we keep the whole community safe. Staff will be outside to help parents/carers during these times. If parents and children wish to wear face coverings at drop off and pick up times, although this cannot be enforced by us, we will support this decision by parents.

Please ensure that you do not allow your children to touch or play on the toys and equipment in Foundation stage – it is vital that the safety of the children within those two classes is not compromised.

We will be in contact with you in due course regarding upcoming events such as parents' evenings which will almost certainly not take place in the usual format. Our calendar will end up looking very different from previous years. We will resume whatever we are able to operate as guidance is updated as soon as we are able to safely.

Extended Schools

Extended Schools will reopen on 1st September. Many of you have been in touch with Mrs Young already but there is still time to book spaces as I know many of you were waiting to hear how things will be managed. I am very proud of our before and after school services – the staff manage, what can sometimes be, a difficult balance between discipline and fun in a relaxed environment that we want to feel different to normal school. The restrictions of social distancing and bubbles means it will be slightly different. Extended schools will take place in the extended schools room and the hall. Each year group will be allocated a space and equipment to use. The equipment will not be shared across year groups without being thoroughly cleaned in between. They will have time outside and in the ICT suite but it will be less fluid than usual. Dropping off and picking up from breakfast and after school club will be slightly different – please use the buzzer at the front entrance and then walk across the car park to the door which leads directly into extended schools. The member of staff working in there will take your child/hand your child back from there. Please take care within the car park area as cars may be moving and ensure that you maintain social distancing while you are waiting.

Uniform

Please also remember that the children must not be bringing unnecessary items into school. They/you will be told their PE days so that they can come in in their kit – a plain coloured t-shirt in their house colour, plain black or blue jogging bottoms and plain sweatshirt. Please note, in previous correspondence it stated a school sweatshirt – there is no specific PE school sweatshirt, it simply meant a normal school sweatshirt would be fine rather than you purchasing any specific additional items. Some of you will have noticed that the logo has changed slightly on the uniform. We have been working on our school vision over the past couple of years and felt that it wasn't reflected in our uniform. TFS clothing and the school had just finalised the design for the new logo just before Covid-19 hit us. Any new uniform you buy will have the new logo on but the old logo is also still fine, it will slowly be phased out over the coming years. Please do not feel that you have to go out and replace all clothes ahead of returning.



Volunteers

We are very lucky that some of our parents and grandparents come in and work with the children, providing valued additional support. We are looking forward to welcoming back our volunteers at some point soon. We will contact our regulars in a few weeks, once we are back in and settled. We would also love to welcome new ones at some point in the future too – some of you may have got the teaching bug during lockdown! As soon as we feel that it is safe for a few additional adults to return we will be in touch.

I repeat the most important instruction – that if your child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus you must not send her/him to school. If your child develops symptoms while at school, she/he will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days (increased from the previous guidance of 7 days) and should arrange to have a test as soon as possible.

We are God's family – learning together, loving together, growing together – striving to be the best we can be for ourselves, for God and for others.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Karen Trowell

Head of School

