

St. Nicholas CE Primary Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware of the government announcement that schools will be open for all pupils from September 2020. We have been looking after children of key workers and those classed by the government as vulnerable since 23 March 2020. Last month, we welcomed back pupils in years R, 1, 5 & 6 as well as children of Key workers. We approached this with caution and detailed planning. This has gone extremely well, as our safety measures and risk assessments were excellent, as noted by the Trust Boards Health and Safety officer. Thank you to all those parents who sent their children back – it has been lovely to see them.

We are delighted that we can now look forward to seeing all our wonderful pupils back in school next term!

As required by the government guidelines, we will continue with our pod structure so as to keep all children safe. We will also continue to stagger the start and finish times so year groups will be dropped off and picked up at different times using all entry points onto the school site. We will have the following system in place:

Beginning and end of the day

The school has three entrances to the school site (one of which was previously closed* to pupils) Different year groups will be expected to come in via the gate indicated below:

- Gate 1* – Y2, Y5 (On Fairfield Road – opposite the junction with George Lane)
- Gate 2 – Reception, Y1, Y3 & Y4 – (The Main entrance gate on Fairfield Road)
- Gate 3 – Y6 (Craythorne Lane, next to the Children’s Centre)

All entry points will be monitored by staff members throughout the time they are open and adults will be asked not to congregate or wait around the school gates.

The school will have two start and finish times: The school population will be split in half, with one class from each year group (R to Y6) in each of the two groups - Group A and Group B. As far as we have been able, we have attempted to include family members in the same group to reduce congestion on and off the school site. If a child is not in the same group as a sibling, both children are to arrive at the earlier time. Children will need to be collected at their allocated finishing time.

Groups / Classes	Start	Finish
Group A Hedgehog, Otter, Hare, Rowan, Birch, Willow, Elm	08:30	15:00
Group B Squirrel, Badger, Fox, Chestnut, Beech, Maple, Oak	08:50	15:20

Parents are not to arrive any earlier than absolutely necessary to collect their child to reduce the risk of crowding on the playground.

We have also attached some additional points you need to be aware of.

1. You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. You must follow the government guidance [‘Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#). If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform your school.
2. Your child will be expected to follow strict behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils, and keeping their hands clean. Pupils will be expected to/taken to wash their hands regularly, and use hand sanitiser.
3. Pupils and staff will not be wearing face coverings in school. The government advice is quite clear that this is not necessary. If face coverings are used on public transport to get to school, it should be removed on arrival.
4. If your child has Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) we will continue to meet their needs when we return.
5. It will be more important than ever that your child has their own equipment in school to ensure that this does not need to be shared. **We would be most grateful if parents could make sure their child has a named pencil case with colouring pencils, a rubber and sharpener ready for the start of term**
6. The government has advised walking or cycling to school wherever possible to reduce the use of public transport.
7. Attendance at school. The government has relaxed the rules on attendance during lockdown. However, this will change in September:

The government guidance says: *‘Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:*

- a. *parents’ duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- b. *schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- c. *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct.’*

If your child remains under the care of a specialist health care professional you should discuss their care before returning to school in September, and talk to your school about the situation. Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, they will not be penalised.

8. School kitchens will re-open in September, and lunches will be available again. Pupils eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school, and will no longer receive lunch vouchers.
9. Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform again from September.

We intend to keep changes to the curriculum to an absolute minimum. We intend to provide as full a range of subjects and activities as possible.

We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning in September, after some months out of school. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our school as safe as it can be. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for any pupils who need it, and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required.

Although it feels like this situation has lasted forever, pupils will have lost by the end of term 70 school days of learning. Very many of them have worked hard using online resources or work books provided by our hardworking and dedicated teachers. We are all determined that they will absolutely not be 'a lost generation' and we're adapting our curriculum to make sure that they get the learning and knowledge that they need to achieve success in the future.

Your children deserve a great and safe education – we will not let them down.

See you on Thursday 3rd September 2020!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C Dale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher Dale
Headteacher