

The Chandler Church of England (Aided) Junior School



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Headteacher: Mr Hugh Rawson

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

SEPTEMBER 2020

We are busy putting plans in place for September and the return of all children to school. There is now a requirement for all pupils to return and we will do all we can to ensure that this is managed as safely as possible. After two INSET Days (Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September), the children start back on Thursday, 3rd September 2020.

In line with government guidance, and in order to keep the children and staff safe, there will be staggered times to the school day (see below) with Year 6 starting and finishing first and Year 3 starting and finishing last. The side gate access (along the path to Witley Church/School) will be open and supervised by staff.

Instead of the small bubbles that some children have become used to this term, the bubbles will be year group sized. Each year group will have its own start and finish times as well as having lunch and breaks away from the rest of the school. Lunchtime will be 45 minutes (instead of the hour they currently have) enabling us to run two separate lunch breaks.

The times of the school day will be different for each year group and are as follows:

	START	BREAK	LUNCH	FINISH
YEAR 6	8.30am	10.00 - 10.15am	11.45am - 12.30pm	2.50pm
YEAR 5	8.40am	10.20 - 10.35am	11.45am - 12.30pm	3.00pm
YEAR 4	8.50am	10.40 - 10.55am	12.35pm - 1.20pm	3.10pm
YEAR 3	9.00am	11.00 - 11.15am	12.35pm - 1.20pm	3.20pm

As you can see, lunch will be either from 11.45am - 12.30pm or from 12.35pm - 1.20pm, depending on which year your child is in. We cannot accommodate all children in the hall because they need to be seated facing away from each other so that the risk of breathing on others is reduced. This limits the number of available spaces. We also need to ensure that all tables and benches are wiped down between the two sittings. For this reason, we will operate a two week rotation with children in one year group eating in the hall in the first week and then in classrooms in the second week, using disposable/recyclable containers and cutlery. While one year group of children eats, the other will be on the playground. This should avoid children mixing with others outside their year group.

We are still working on the school lunch provision with Twelve15, our catering contractors. Children will be able to choose to have a school lunch at £2.40 per day or bring a packed lunch from home and you should have received an email requesting your child's meal arrangements for the September start. Please contact the school office if you did not receive this.

CLASSROOMS:

The aim is for children to be contained in their own class as much as possible, and then in year group bubbles beyond that. In class, we do still need to ensure that they are as safe as possible. This means sitting them so that they all face forwards, rather than into each other; this means all desks will be in rows. Children will enter and leave the classroom through the external doors as much as possible and avoid using the school corridors; walking along the outside of the building when they need to visit the playground, field or toilets.

Teachers will remain at the front of the class and will be socially distanced as much as possible. Learning Support Assistants, even those who are assigned to work closely to an individual child, will be working at a distance alongside the child. There will be regular hand washing every time a child enters or leaves the room.

Children will have their own equipment which will be kept in a named plastic wallet on their desk, not to be taken home. Stationery (named where possible) should be brought in on the first day of term in a slim pencil case to remain in school, containing:

- A pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Handwriting pen (this can be provided by the school if necessary)
- Rubber
- Glue stick
- Coloured pencils.

They will also need a named water bottle which they will keep with them in class and a healthy snack (that does not contain nuts) for break time.

OUTSIDE AREAS:

For the most part, children will be in year group bubbles on the playground. At the beginning and end of the day, there will be staff present to ensure that siblings are minded in their bubbles on the playground during our staggered start and finish times. Where possible, please do keep younger/older siblings at home until it is their time to start. This will really help us to reduce the risk of children mixing.

Each bubble will have their own play equipment (netball, football etc) which will be sanitised after use each time. Children will be outside more often and we will endeavour to ensure that there is the opportunity for lots of fresh air at times when we may previously have brought them in. Learning will take place in the playground, field and woods where possible and as appropriate. This means that children will need coats and suitable school shoes. Whenever children have been outside, they will be required to wash their hands well on return.

CLUBS:

We know how much many of you rely on school clubs and we are considering ways of making these work safely. We will endeavour to ensure that the year group bubbles are not compromised. The hope is that School's Out (the externally run after school provider) will be able to run with a bubble for each year group - more information to come but if you would like to register your interest, please email Maria Butterfield at: Schoolsoutactivity@hotmail.co.uk.

Clubs and activities run by staff and outside agencies will not be starting immediately but we hope to be able to bring these back once the school is up and running early in the Autumn.

PE:

Because of the importance of maintaining bubbles and the dangers of transmission of droplets through the air, PE will revert to one afternoon a week and will be outside. Children should come to school in PE kit on their designated day so that we minimise the amount of things coming in from home. In the cooler months, children should wear tracksuit trousers or joggers and a warm sweatshirt over their PE kit. The PE days are as follows:

- MONDAY - YEAR 3
- TUESDAY - YEAR 5
- WEDNESDAY - YEAR 4
- THURSDAY - YEAR 6

ACE DAYS:

We know how popular these creative days are with the children and staff. However, it is currently impossible to run them as we have done in the past. We do have one scheduled for the 23rd October but it will be completely based at school and each class will remain with their teacher for the duration of the day. More details to follow nearer the time.

COMPUTING AND MUSIC:

There are some lessons which we are really challenged to deliver. Our Computing Suite normally receives heavy usage and this is just not possible with the amount of sanitising that would be required. We believe that the best way forward is for each class to have a designated week in the Computing Suite each term. They will be based in the suite from Monday to Thursday of that week and it will then undergo a deeper clean on the Friday in readiness for the next class in the following week. It does mean that some of our group sessions (Touch Typing for example) will not be able to run.

The guidelines advise against singing and the teaching of instruments that involve breath movement. This will have an impact on our music provision because so much of what we have done in the past - from ukuleles, to Doods & Toots, to choir - have all involved a lot of singing as part of the teaching.

ASSEMBLIES:

We are trying to find innovative ways of coming together as a whole school and very much hope that we will be able to meet in year group bubbles in the hall with a good distance between children. We hope that this can then be streamed to other year groups in their classes. But it won't be the same as being able to have the whole school family together in one place.

ONLINE LEARNING:

We have learned a lot about online learning over the past few months and are keen to develop our skills and presence in a fair and equitable way so that no one misses out. We have been working on this behind the scenes and have staff training planned for the Autumn. We see this as another tool in the teachers' toolkit - not as something that will replace the teacher. It is something we plan to use to complement learning in school.

SCHOOL TRIPS:

We are liaising with the providers of our Year 5 & 6 visits to the Isle of Wight and France respectively, and will advise parents/carers very shortly as to the new dates for both of these trips. We know that residential trips and day trips are an important part of learning and fostering independence so we are keen to see all trips

resume. However, we will only ever give the go ahead for trips when we know that everything has been done to ensure that transport and the trip itself do not compromise the health or safety of the children or staff. For the moment, trips are on hold.

BUS-TAXI TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL:

We are currently awaiting confirmation as to what service our bus and taxis will be able to provide. More details to follow.

WEARING MASKS:

Current guidelines say that masks should not be worn in school. Children may need to wear them on public transport to and from school but they should be removed on arrival at school and placed in a plastic bag inside the child's school bag to take home.

FIRST AID:

When a child is hurt and requires First Aid, we have trained first aiders throughout the school. For the most part children come to the office when they need medical attention. In a situation where a member of the First Aid team is required to work closely with a child, they will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

TOILETS:

There is no requirement for schools to have separate toilets for each bubble – and this is not feasible at The Chandler. However, we will ensure that toilet facilities are cleaned even more frequently during the school day. Children will be encouraged to wait for break times, rather than leave the classroom during lesson time so that unsupervised visits are minimised. As mentioned above, on leaving or entering a classroom, children will be required to wash their hands.

ILLNESS:

If a child is unwell and does not have Covid-19 symptoms, the office team will contact parents/carers and the child will wait in the medical room until they can be collected. If a child has a temperature, a new cough, loss of taste or smell or any other coronavirus symptom, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to fetch them immediately. It is of the greatest importance that we have up to date contact numbers for all parents/carers. The child will then be asked to wait in the specially screened off isolation area in the entrance hall, away from other people but where the office staff can keep an eye on them.

Any child or member of staff showing symptoms must be tested as soon as possible. The school should have a limited number of home testing kits or tests can be booked online at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>.

Other children and staff in the sick child's bubble (year group) should continue coming to school. If the test is negative the child should return to school as soon as they are well enough. If the test is positive, the school will contact the local health protection team who will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. The local health protection team will also contact the school directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

I hope that this gives you a feel for what school will look and feel like in September. There is a real sense of sadness about the things we won't be able to do - coming together as a school, for example - but also the things that will need a lot more care and thought before enjoying fully - such as computing and music. The school is already a different place. However, our ethos and values remain the same and we look forward to rising to the challenge of a fresh start in this challenging period.

In time, we will be able to return to a more normal, virus free school day and we look forward to that.

Yours sincerely



Mr Hugh Rawson
Headteacher