



STICKLAND'S C.E. V.A.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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17th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of term and have been busy in school, with our planning to welcome all children back on the 7th September. After a very uncertain few months, it does feel good saying that!

I do apologise for the length of this letter, but there is a lot of information that I need to share with you. Please do ensure that you read all of the letter.

This letter gives information on how Stickland's School will implement safety systems and procedures for the opening of the school based on the Government regulations. After reading the information, we hope that you will have a better understanding of how we have made the school a safe and welcoming place to be and how you can play your part in helping us keep our children, families, staff and community as safe as possible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

The guidance is for schools to interpret and implement locally but there are some statutory aspects that we have completed as well. One of the requirements is for each school to adopt a full risk assessment of all aspects of school life. This has been completed and agreed by the governing body and submitted to Dorset County for approval.

From the guidance, here is the system of controls that schools **must take**. This letter sets out how this will be put in place:

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
 - 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
 - 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
 - 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
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5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

What will school be like for your child in September?

In short, we are planning an engaging, enjoyable term for all of our pupils so that they can learn from a rich and varied curriculum and be with their friends. There will be some changes however. We have already put some of these changes in place during the last few months, and are confident of how the day works. The children so far have adjusted very well and have loved coming into school.

I have had very positive responses to the plans for children to return to their familiar 'current' classes for half a term in September. Thank you to everyone who has messaged me – the understanding that this is in place for the children's mental health and well-being was overwhelming.

What will happen when my child arrives and leaves School?

We have decided that – due to the system of arrival in school that is normally in place, we will not have a staggered drop off and pick up system. When dropping off and picking up, please ensure that a minimal number of family members come on to the school grounds. Please leave the grounds as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child – and follow common sense and social distancing guidance with other people on the playground.

Please do not arrive early at the start and end of the day. We will open the large main playground gate, to avoid congestion in this area and too many people touching the gate. Please ensure that you supervise your children in the playground to avoid them mixing with those in other 'bubbles'. There are red lines near the main door and side gate, please do not cross these – or sit on the school benches.

Children must not bring anything into school from home other than:

Lunchbox

Water bottle

Hat (if sunny)

Labelled sun cream (if necessary)

Coat (if necessary but we will be getting outside as much as possible all term)

Change of clothes for Forest School on the class day

Reading book and record.

Holiday book (please do not send anything else in relating to the summer holidays)

KS2 homework folders

Bags must not be brought in as they will not be necessary.

Unfortunately, the children will also not be able to bring in 'show and tell' items

I will be at the side gate, as usual, to welcome pupils in to school. Please note that parents **will not be able to enter the school building at any time other than a pre-arranged appointment. Messages for the office can be**

passed on when children are dropped off, or should be telephoned or e-mailed to Mrs Cracknell or staff members. Please observe social distancing at all times on the playground and outside the school gates.

At the end of the day, the bus children will leave the school first – please ensure that you allow them the space to walk to the buses.

The children will be sent out to you at the end of the day. Children should be collected from the following places:

Goldfinches – front door

Woodpeckers – Discovery Centre side door

Kingfisher –side gate

Ravens – front door.

Please ensure that you stand away from the front door and other exits to allow the staff and children to come out easily. Please leave the school promptly, again using social distancing protocols.

Class “bubbles”

Government Guidelines state each class group or collection of certain age children will be in a “bubble”. Children within the bubble will stay with each other, learning and playing together but without mixing with children from another bubble. At Stickland’s School, our bubbles will be our class groups.

The children from Year 1-Year 6, will all have desks facing forwards towards the teacher. The staff will aim to remain 2 metres apart for the most part but may be nearer to pupils if necessary for a short time.

Guidance states: Schools must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Each child will have their own individual pack of equipment including pencils, pens, rubber, ruler, whiteboards etc. and not share these items.

Children from the bubble will play as normal outside together.

Hand washing

Children will wash their hands for 20 seconds each time they enter the classroom, after they have used a tissue, before eating and before they leave school (first thing in the morning, before break, after break etc throughout the day). This will become part of their daily routine in school.

Any adults entering the building will also wash hands at every start and end of session, the same as the children. We also have hand sanitizers throughout the school.

Hygiene

Everyone at school will know the “Catch it, kill it, bin it” phrase and act accordingly. Posters will be placed around school and we will spend time so that each child knows what to do using a tissue.

Cleaning

We have a wonderful cleaner who has continued during the pandemic to ensure that the whole school, including frequently touched surfaces are carefully cleaned. Throughout the day, school staff will also ensure that any shared resources are wiped down with a disinfectant eg the chrome books. There are also disinfectant wipes in each class if they are needed during the day.

What will my child be doing at School?

Children will be completing lessons as normal with a creative, wellbeing and often outdoor twist! We will see where your children are with their learning and make plans to help them be where they need to be throughout

the term. We have made sure that your child/ren will have everything they need to enjoy their day of learning. We will have our usual Maths and English time during the morning as well as make time for mindfulness and plan in lots of wellbeing activities to ensure your child has time to reflect and settle in to school. We would like to be outside as much as possible. The emphasis will be on health and wellbeing.

Behaviour

We will have our usual high expectations of behaviour, and we are sure that with the right approach and with your help, children will understand that they need to follow the school rules relating to conduct and hygiene

School Uniform

School uniform must be worn in September – please ensure that it is cleaned regularly. To avoid any issues with changing and extra items in school, we would like children to wear PE kits and Forest school clothes (and bring a change of clothes) on specific days that they are doing PE, and Forest school.

We will not be able to lend clothing.

Goldfinch – PE Tuesday and Friday Forest School Thursday

Woodpecker - PE Monday and Thursday, Forest School Wednesday

Kingfisher – PE Monday and Friday, Forest School Tuesday

Raven – PE Tuesday and Friday. No Forest School for this half term

This will start on our first day back – Monday 7th September.

What about school transport?

Dorset transport have advised us of the following;

‘Closed school transport routes will be running with no social distancing enforced, although other measures will be in place to improve ventilation and cleanliness. On such routes face coverings will be strongly recommended for all passengers.’

Please note that face coverings are strongly recommended. We will be closely monitoring behaviour on the buses, and will not hesitate to recommend that bus passes are removed if we feel that other bus users are being put at any extra risk on the buses. Please ensure that you talk to your children about their behaviour on the bus. Parents must not get onto the buses when dropping off or picking up their children.

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

The guidance states: *it is the 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.* We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all children in September but know that it may be a time of anxiety for parents after many months of being at home. We are confident that the measures we have put in place, in line with government guidelines, are efficient and in many cases exceed the expectations.

What can parents do to keep the children as safe as possible?

We hope you will help us as we approach the Autumn term start, and understand that everything is being put in place in school to protect you and your family.

We would also ask that you follow the guidance:

Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school

Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), or have tested positive in the last 7 days, and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). All schools must follow this process and ensure all staff are aware of it.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If a child becomes unwell at school

It is absolutely vital that we have all of the correct contact details for you, and that we are able to reach you immediately in the event of your child / ren becoming unwell at school.

If a child is awaiting collection because they are clearly unwell, they will be moved, to a space where they can be isolated, with appropriate adult supervision.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household bleach after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

Here is a government link to help give you further information:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=14%20July%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

We very much hope that with the measures in place and with your help that the last paragraphs won't apply to our school but are sure you will understand that we need to share this information.

If you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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And finally.....

I entered the teaching profession in 1996 and I thought that I had seen it all during that time. However, I would never have foreseen the unusual events of the last 4 months. It has tested our children, parents, staff and community in so many different ways.

I would just like to emphasize how grateful I am to all the staff at school for all of their hard work – in school keeping children feeling safe and looked after in a very unusual situation - and providing continued care, support and work for those at home.

I also want to thank you for your continued support. I feel extremely proud to be the Headteacher at Stickland's. I wish you all a very enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you all in September.

With kind regards,

Kathy McCann

Head Teacher