

## An Overview of Our Plans for September 2020.

Dear Parents/carers,

Firstly, I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well. As we finish today, I have reflected on my first year at St Charles' and what a year it has been! Thank you to the children, staff, governors and parents for your support over the year – it really has made a difference. A huge thank you to everyone who has brought gifts for the staff, they were really appreciated, thank you. Together we have also made Mrs Walkers' last day something to remember.

I wanted to inform you of some of the arrangements we have put in place for welcoming the children back in September. I appreciate that this update will not answer all of the questions you may have but it will answer some of them. I will write to you again, before we start, with more information and more concrete plans. It is hard for us to do this at the moment as the guidance from the government changes so frequently.

The reopening of our school for some pupils has been very successful and that is down to the hard work of our amazing staff, the relentless planning we conducted before every decision was made and because of your patience and support. This safe, measured and calculated approach, that has served us well so far, will be continued as we move forward. We will not act with haste and every decision will be made with your child's best interests at heart. I promise you that!

When the children return in September, after the summer holidays, many of them would have been away from school for almost six months! It would be naive of any school to think that the children will pick up the curriculum at exactly the same point at which they left it on the day their school closed. Too much has happened! Everyone in our school community will have had a different experience of lockdown; it has undeniably affected us all. Research shows that children who experienced quarantine or social isolation in previous pandemics were five times more likely to need mental health interventions than those who did not. We recognise that a huge amount of additional work and mental health support is going to be required when our pupils return to school. We are certainly up for the challenge and have developed our very own 'Recovery Curriculum', specific to our school, our staff, our pupils and our community! The contents of this will be communicated once they have been finalised.

Important Points to Consider... It is important to note that we really don't know what to expect when our children return to school and THAT IS OK! We do not fully understand their lived experiences of this pandemic and as a result, any plans we put in place must be fluid, transparent and flexible. We are very much living out a unique situation, a unique moment in history! What is important though is that we, as a school community, recover from this experience. This recovery will be very different for each of us - pupils, parents and staff. What needs to be put in place needs to be right for our whole school community. It will be personal to our school.

Attending school is vital for children's education and their wellbeing, guidance from the Department for Education states that all children will return to school full time from September 2020; we have been reviewing the guidance and how our pupils will return safely to school. The government has stated that all children must attend school from the beginning of the autumn term and that the usual rules on school attendance will apply; we will be resuming our First Day Response calls and work with the Education Welfare Officer. If all goes to plan and if it is safe to do so, all of our current children will return to school on: **Wednesday 2nd September 2020.**

To reduce the risk of transmission school will use 'bubbles' to keep groups of children separate. At St Charles' a bubble will be a year group of children; the bubble will have staggered arrival / collection times, lunch / dinner breaks, playtimes etc. As classes will be staying in bubbles, and not mixing year groups, we will not be able to hold whole school collective worship – this will be reviewed as guidance changes. Staggered drop off / arrival will reduce the number of people at the front of school, please can only one adult bring / collect your child from school to further reduce numbers on the premises, leave the school grounds promptly and not gather at the school gates. Below are the arrival / collection times for different classes. We understand that this will be more complicated for parents with a number of children in the school, however I ask that everyone keeps promptly to their set time as much as possible. Whilst waiting for other children to finish please can parents stand by the clearly labelled waiting points with socially distanced markings.

	Arrival	Collection
Reception*	8.50am	3.10pm
Year 1	8.45am	3.10pm
Year 2	8.40am	3.10pm
Year 3	8.40am	3.20pm
Year 4	8.40am	3.20pm
Year 5	8.50am	3.20pm
Year 6	8.50am	3.20pm

*\*Reception parents have received additional information about their staggered start.*

- Pupils will be returning to school in uniform.
- Lunchtimes will be staggered and children will be sat in bubbles in the hall. Hot dinners will be available.
- Children need to bring a filled water bottle in and take this home to be washed daily – this should be clearly named.
- In classrooms, tables and chairs will be positioned facing the front. Classroom based resources and surfaces will be cleaned regularly. Children will wash / sanitise hands regularly.
- Please do not bring pencil cases / toys / mobile phones etc. in to school to keep classrooms as clear as possible for cleaning.

Breakfast club and After School club will operate from the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Places must be booked in advance. Please email the school office if this is something you require. Please note that after school club will finish at 5.30pm to ensure that the hall and equipment is cleaned before the end of the day.

Current guidance is that parents / pupils should not attend school if they have symptoms or live with someone who has had symptoms in the last 14 days.

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature (37.8°C or higher)
- A loss of or change in normal sense of smell or taste

It is important that school is informed of any positive Covid-19 cases at the earliest opportunity – this may be your child or someone they have been in close / direct contact with. If your child is absent from school any time we will operate our first day response procedure (school will contact you if you have not reported your child's absence). There may be additional Covid-19 questions we will ask in regard to their illness / absence.

School has a clear and robust cleaning / hygiene processes in place. These have been shared with the health and safety unit in the Local Authority to ensure they are up to date and fit for purpose. We want parents to be assured that this will continue. As this is an evolving situation we will update you with additional information as and when the need arises.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you in September. We will rely upon your fullest co-operation in ensuring you drop off / collect at the stated times and not to remain on the school yard. Hopefully we can get back to some sense of normality very soon.

Mrs R Dean