

Huddersfield Rd Stalybridge Cheshire SK15 2PT Tel. 0161 338 2060 Email: admin@cdatstpaulsprimary.co.uk Web: <u>www.st-pauls-stalybridge.tameside.sch.uk</u> Headteacher Mr S Wright

26.5.20

**Dear Parents** 

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing with some additional information following my letter of 21.5.20 including what the wider return to school will look like. As stated in my previous letter on 8<sup>th</sup> June those children of key workers who have been attending school will continue to attend. Any wider opening will only be at first for the Year 1 group. This will be on Weds 10<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest to support preparation, relevant staff training and time to communicate information to you. This is subject to any further announcements by the government and us being in a position to open safely to that year group on that date. We are working tirelessly towards that goal. Any potential adding of year groups will be done in a phased manner, looking at reception and then finally year 6.

If you as parents decide not to send your child back to school, when a place is offered, then parents and carers will not be subject to a penalty notice for nonattendance, until further notice. I do appreciate that families have some very difficult decisions to make regarding both their children's education and the safety of their children and their wider family and their work commitments. It is a complex and exceedingly difficult choice.

For our year 1 parents initially there is a link to a survey monkey where you will be asked if your child will be returning to school on 10<sup>th</sup> June. You will be asked for the name of your child and a yes/no question, if they will be returning. I ask that you complete this survey by 9am on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May so that we can make plans accordingly. You still need to fill this in even if you completed the previous anonymous survey.

The link to this survey monkey is for year 1 parents only:

#### https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HF93RB7

The link to the survey will also be on the school website in the Covid-19 updates section of the school website.

#### What will school be doing to keep your child safe?

We like all schools have been working very hard to prepare for any possible wider reopening. School will feel and look different, but we will do as much as we can to



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make sure that the children feel the love care and consideration that they always have.

• Classrooms have been organised to support social distancing, with spaced out desks. Each child will be assigned their own chair/desk. Children will have their own individual pencil case and a folder in which they will keep their own work. This will be just for them and not shared with other children.



- Other classroom equipment used will be kept to a minimum. If equipment is used by a child it will be disinfected before going on to be used by others.
- Children are likely not to be taught by their normal class teacher. This is a reality of the situation that we are in.
- If you decide to return your child to school, following completion of the survey monkey, parents will be emailed by school in due course with further information. Your child is only to attend school if a place has been confirmed via email. Your child will be allocated a 'bubble' group who they will work with. These bubbles for year groups will be for up to nine pupils. There will be members of staff allocated to work with each group. The bubble group will share a classroom space. It will look something like this:









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- This bubble will not mix with other groups during the day. We know this will be disappointing for some, but it is an important part of how we need to work at this time.
- There will be regular handwashing throughout the day, e.g. on arrival and before and after eating, or for example after sneezing, following the, catch it, bin it, kill it message. We will teach the children about this, but please do talk to them at home about this as well.
- All classrooms and toilets have handwashing facilities. Pupils will be talked though the importance of handwashing on a regular basis and have effective ways of handwashing shared with them (for example thorough the, NHS wash your hands song). Please do not send any hand sanitisers with your child.
- Movement around school will be kept to a minimum, to minimise any potential contact between groups.
- There will be increased cleaning throughout the day. There will also be time built in for deeper cleaning (this will mean that children who attend, will not be in for the full five days to support this cleaning. For the initial year 1 pupils who return to school this will mean school will be open Monday to Thursday).
- Children will not be given things to bring home from school. Please do not bring things in from home or return school property such as reading books (the only exception relates to water bottles and packed lunches).
- Children are to bring in their own filled, labelled personal water bottle that they can use to drink from. The children will bring this home with them.
- Playtimes and dinnertimes will be staggered for the different bubble groups. To support groups not mixing with other groups.
- When outside children within their bubble group will mix with children from their own bubble. There will be no additional equipment out with them. Items such as the climbing frames will be out of bounds.
- Toilet times. The children will be encouraged to go at certain times when their bubble group has access to it. E.g. at playtimes. Toilets will be cleaned regularly.
- Schools have been advised that PPE is not needed to be worn as a matter of course. We will also not be taking the temperature of children.
- There will be an addendum to the behaviour policy that will be placed on the school website prior to reopening. This will take account of the changes we are making at this time.











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#### What will the learning look like in school?

- There will be high emphasis on establishing routines and health messages, such as hand washing. This will be done in an age appropriate way.
- There will be a focus on mental health and well-being work. We are aware that children will feel anxious about returning to school.
- There will also be a core focus on English and Maths, but we will also be looking at other subject areas.
- If there is physical activity taking place. This will not involve contact between pupils.
- We will endeavour to make learning as familiar as we can for the children, however certain things will be different from what the children will have been use to.
- We will be continuing with home learning activity through things such as rainbow challenges for reception and purple mash for our other children. It maybe that email responses come back from teachers other than your child's normal teacher.

#### Lunches

• For children who will be returning, you can provide a packed lunch. Please just send in a lunchbox or carrier bag and do not send in large school bags. If you want a meal provided in school this must be ordered through the live kitchen system. Live kitchen ordering will be open prior to school reopening. Meals will be in the form of grab bags. These will be prepared in the school kitchen and delivered to the room your child is in. Children will eat their lunch in the classroom.

#### **Entering and leaving school**

- If you complete yes to your child returning to school through the updated survey monkey, you will be sent in due course an email identifying an arrival and pick up time for your child.
- We are asking all parents and children to walk on the left when entering and leaving the school grounds, to support a one-way system.
- Arrival and departure times will be staggered for different groups. Please stick to the times given to support social distancing.
- We are getting markings at 2m on the paths into school to help support social distancing.





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- Only one adult is to bring and collect children (if you have a young child who you have to bring with you, please ensure they are in a buggy or you use reins, so that they can be kept close to you).
- When your child enters school, we need you to exit the school grounds immediately. Similarly to leave as soon as you have collected your child.
- If you have, any queries or updates when your child is back in school please, if you can make them via phone call or email if at all possible.

### What if there are Covid 19 symptoms?

If your child has returned to school and if they or a household member develops symptoms while at home, then you and your family would need to follow the selfisolation guidance set out by the government and inform school.

If your child becomes unwell in school with Covid symptoms, you will be contacted to collect your child. Your child will have had to go into a room away from other children with a member of staff. If symptoms are shown, then it is a possibility that the member of staff who is with them would have to wear PPE. If there is, a positive test for Covid-19 within the 'bubble group,' government guidance currently states that the rest of their group should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Also, as you will be aware from national announcements, testing can be booked for those 5 years and up.

### Uniform

Please try to provide a school uniform for your child. If they no longer fit, please keep clothes as plain as possible. No jewellery is to be worn as per school policy. If it is possible to wear fresh clothes each day and wash clothes as often as possible that would be appreciated.

### Transport

If at all possible please walk to school if you can.

We all understand that this is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure that any return is as safe as we can make it. The whole team at St Paul's would like to thank you for your continuous support.

Stay Safe, Mr Wright







