



Somerford Primary School

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2nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Plans for school reopening in September 2020 This is a reissue and update to the letter sent on 9th July 2020.

I hope you all had a good summer, even if it didn't feel the same as usual. The staff all made sure we took a break but we have also been working hard to ensure the school is ready to welcome Years 1 to 6 back on Monday. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again!

In this letter I have tried to be as comprehensive as possible but there may still be things you want to know which I have missed out. Please don't worry about asking questions. You can email your child's class teacher on the class email address or email me at the office address (above).

As always, we have closely followed the guidance from the DfE which is based on advice from Public Health England. In doing so, we hope to have reduced any risks as much as we can. Our plans and risk assessment for welcoming back YR, Y1 and Y6 worked well so we are confident these new plans will allow for a smooth return for all pupils.

When does school open?

School will open to Years 1-6 on Monday 7th September. Reception have Stay and Play sessions that week and have received a letter with dates and times. If you cannot remember when your sessions are, please call the school office.

What will the classrooms look like?

Classrooms from Year 1 to Year 6 will have the tables arranged in rows and children will be sat facing the front. They will be sat next to other children and they will always sit in the same place in the room.

Children will be provided with their own basic equipment (eg pencil, ruler etc) in their own named wallet. If children wish to bring a pencil case they can but this will need to stay at school.

Can children bring things in from home?

Children can bring essential items in from home such as coat, hat, water bottle and packed lunch. Children can bring a bag from September. Children must not bring any other items in from home at this time. Children will be allowed to take home reading books and Read, Write, Inc books and bring these back to school. These will be cleaned or stored for 72 hours before being used again.

Will Breakfast Club be open?

Yes. Children will be asked to sit on a table designated for their year group. There will be a range of activities ready for them on the table. The Breakfast Club staff will serve the breakfasts and

drinks. Children will not be allowed to move tables or help themselves to food. If you wish to use Breakfast Club, please ensure your children know the rules. If they are unable to abide by these rules, as they are for everyone's safety, your child will not be able to attend.

What will the start and end of the day be like?

We will continue to run staggered drop offs and pick ups to limit social contact at these peak times. It is very important your child arrives on time. Parents are still not allowed on to the school site and will need to drop off at the gates.

	Gate A Front		Gate B Back	
	Drop off	Pick up	Drop off	Pick up
Year 1			8.40	3.05
Year 2			8.50	3.15
Year 3			9.00	3.35
Year 4	9.00	3.35		
Year 5	8.50	3.25		
Year 6	8.40	3.15		

If you have siblings at different gates or different times, you can drop off both at the same gate at the **earliest** time slot. The children will then wait in a designated area and be taken to their class at the correct time.

Please arrive **on time** and not early or late.

Please observe social distancing when bringing your child to the gate. Please ensure only one parent drops off and collects and we encourage parents to wear a face covering at these times.

Please walk or cycle to school wherever possible. If you have to bring a car, please park considerately and responsibly in the car park or on the adjacent roads. Please do not park in the designated disabled parking bays unless you have a blue badge and this is displayed. Thank you

Will the children all be together at play and lunch times?

Children will have break and lunch times with their year group but will be separate from other year groups. Siblings in different year groups will not be able to mix at these times.

What will lunch time be like?

We will be operating a staggered lunch time so only one year group is eating in the hall at a time. Year 3 will be eating in the infant hall initially.

Children with packed lunches in years 4, 5 and 6 will be eating in the classrooms.

Children will be handed their lunch and their cutlery. The self serve salad bar will be served by a member of staff. Children eating in the halls will be asked to sit on their year group tables.

Children will not be able to choose where to sit. Please make sure your child is aware of these new procedures.

What do I do if my child is unwell?

Before your child leaves home every morning, please check for any of the following symptoms

- a high temperature;

- a new, continuous cough;
- a loss of, or change to their sense of smell or taste.

If any of these symptoms are evident do not send them to school, contact our absence line or email the office as soon as possible.

If your child is unwell with non COVID symptoms, please continue to follow the school's usual procedures. If you require any advice, please call the school office.

Will the children still be washing their hands?

Yes! This will remain a really important part of our safety plan and the children who have attended last year are experts in the routine. However, with lots more children this is a logistical challenge and we are looking at ways to make this process quicker. Children will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands (as a minimum) when they arrive at school, after breaks and lunch times as well as before and after eating.

Does my child have to return to school?

Yes. It is mandatory to send your child to school from September. We want to work with you to ensure you are happy to do so. Please talk to us quickly if you have any anxieties about sending your child back to school. We will be following our usual attendance procedures in September. It is also really important your child is on time as otherwise they may be missing learning as you wait for other groups to enter school.

What additional support will my child receive?

The teachers are very skilled at assessing where a child is in their learning and then planning their teaching and support to move a child on to their next steps. This will be a focus when children return. Teachers and teaching assistants will be running small group support and children may have 1:1 support in some areas. The teachers will continue to communicate with you about the support your child is receiving. When we receive more information about the Tutoring Programme and the financial catch up support for schools, we will send more information to you.

My child has SEND (and an EHCP), will their support continue?

Yes. We will be able to start working on IEP and EHCP outcomes again and children will have the necessary adult support in class. We will also be able to welcome therapists and other adults who may support your child, back in to school. Adults supporting your child will still observe social distancing and good hygiene which has been planned carefully. If you have any questions about your child's support, please contact your child's class teacher initially or email the school office for the attention of Mr Thorne.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. We will return to a full school uniform and this includes school shoes or plain black trainers. Children will need their PE kit in school too. This will stay at school. There will be no school swimming in the Autumn Term. Y6 will be asked to wear their PE kit to school on PE days.

What will happen if there is a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

Children must not attend school if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, persistent cough, loss or change of taste or smell). They must not attend school if anyone in their household has any of these symptoms.

If your child develops these symptoms you must self-isolate and book a test. If your child receives a positive test then you must inform the school immediately. The school will contact the Local Health Protection Team and they will advise us who needs to self isolate. We will then contact parents to inform them. **It is therefore vital that we have up to date phone numbers and addresses for you.** Please complete the contact form which will be sent to you and return to the school on your child's first day. If you do not have a phone you must nominate someone else to collect your child for you in case of an emergency. Please agree this with them.

Please be assured, schools have been given very clear instructions on what to do if there is a suspected or confirmed case and we will follow these meticulously.

Will my child be given learning if they have to self isolate?

The school is expected to be able to provide immediate, high quality remote learning if children are told to self isolate following a positive test or being told to by Public Health England via the Test and Trace system and this is what we aim to do. We are conscious that not everyone has easy access to the Internet or a laptop and printing work is even harder. We will consider this in our remote learning offer.

Will the flu immunisations still be going ahead?

The school nursing team have booked a date in October with us for these immunisations. More details will be sent home closer to the time.

Will my child be safe at school?

The virus is still in the community and therefore a risk always remains. However, the rates in BCP and Dorset are very low. We have followed the government guidance completely and our risk assessment is detailed and robust. Therefore we have essentially minimised the risks to your child and our staff. Please do talk to us if you have any concerns.

Does my child need to wear a face covering?

Children are not required to wear face coverings in a primary school. The only exception to this is any child who is 11 years old and travelling on public or dedicated school transport.

Do I need to wear a face covering?

We encourage you to wear a face covering when you drop off or pick up your child as there will be a gathering of people despite our staggered timings. If you have an appointment for a scheduled meeting in school, you will also be encouraged to wear a face covering.

Will staff be wearing face coverings?

Staff in primary schools are not required to wear face coverings. The guidance outlines that they may wear one in communal areas such as staffrooms and corridors. Therefore children may see staff in face coverings. Senior staff may be wearing a visor when meeting and greeting at the gates. Teachers and TAs will not be wearing face coverings in the classrooms.

We are confident in our plans and risk assessments as they follow the government and LA guidance but we are also certain there will need to be changes and amendments as we welcome everyone back to school. Please continue to be patient with us! I will continue to communicate with you regularly.

Mr Walsh, our Pastoral Care Leader, is available every day to support families and children. If you would like to speak to him, please let us know on the gate or call the school office.

Please enjoy the last few days of the holidays – after all this time together it will feel very strange when they are not at home!

Best wishes

Helen Frampton
Headteacher