



Somerford Primary School

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Headteacher : Mrs H Frampton

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all as excited as us that the PM announced that all children can return to school on 8th March!

I have constantly told you what an amazing job I think you have all done at home supporting with remote learning, juggling children of different ages and juggling your jobs and other roles too. Our staff team have also worked incredibly hard to ensure that learning can continue and that your children (and hopefully you too) have been supported. But I think we would all agree, that children will benefit from returning to school.

We will, as always, follow the guidance issued. This time, there are no big changes for primary schools so things will feel the same for you and your children when they return. We have been asked to maintain all of our protective measures and therefore we will be continuing with staggered starts and finishes and different gates. Only one parent should drop off and pick up, parents should wear a mask (unless medically exempt) and should distance from other parents. Please leave the gates as quickly as possible and please do not wait by the gate until your child's allocated time.

A reminder:

	Gate A Front		Gate B Back	
	Drop off	Pick up	Drop off	Pick up
Reception	8.40	3.10		
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		

Breakfast Club will start again from 8th March and opens at 7.45am. Please pay by cash for the first week for Breakfast Club. We will update you that week on how to pay for Breakfast Club online going forward (including parents who have already paid some balances on Wraparound Care)

Children need to wear school uniform. I suggest children continue to wear warm layers underneath their uniform until we get consistently warm weather as we have to continue

to have the rooms well ventilated. Year 5 and 6 are asked to wear PE kit on their PE days. The teachers will confirm these days with you via Marvellous Me.

We will be maintaining our measures to keep everyone as safe as possible. This includes:

- Maintaining class bubbles and bubbles not mixing
- Additional cleaning throughout the day
- Twice weekly testing of staff
- Good ventilation in the school and classrooms
- Good hand hygiene throughout the day

Please see the risk assessment on the school website for full details. The government have advised that there will be no routine testing of primary school pupils.

The guidance asks schools to inform parents that from 8th March attendance at school is mandatory and schools are asked to follow up any attendance concerns or any Persistent Absenteeism as usual. The guidance also states that Fixed Penalty Notices can be used if necessary.

If you have any concerns about your child returning, please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible to we can work with you to ensure a smooth transition back to school.

Please can I ask you to continue to keep your child at home if they, **or any of the household**, show symptoms of COVID. This includes a new and persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell. We are aware that children's symptoms can present differently and you know your children best. If you are concerned that they may have COVID, please seek medical advice and keep your child at home.

If you would like your child to have a hot meal from 8th March, you will need to order this online by **Thursday 4th March**. If you have any problems with ordering, please email finance@somerford.dorset.sch.uk and Mrs Thacker will be able to help you. Payments can be made on Sims Pay for school meals as normal. Please check you have ordered school meals on Biostore for all your school meals until the end of March. There will be a new, much simpler, system of ordering school meals through Sims Pay after Easter and you will be sent details of this in March.

As you may have heard, schools have been given some additional funding to support small group interventions and 'catch up'. We will be using this funding in a variety of ways and you can find some details on our website. Miss Hart will be running some in school sessions and we will be using an online tutor as well. If your child has been selected for these interventions when we return, their class teacher will provide you with more details over the next couple of weeks.

We really are looking forward to having the children back in school. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's class teacher or email me via the school office email.

See you soon!!

Best wishes

Helen Frampton
Headteacher

Gavin Williamson has written an open letter to parents and carers. It can be found at [An open letter from Education Secretary Gavin Williamson to parents, carers and guardians - Education in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)