



St Timothy's

Primary School, Nursery Class and LCSC

22nd June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you were able to read the letter from Derek Brown and the FAQs released on Friday – this letter should be read in conjunction with them. It contains our plans at the moment for our school when we return in August. As you will be aware though, we are dealing with a changeable situation. Please therefore keep checking both our school app and twitter feed over the summer holidays.

Attendance Pattern

You may have seen in the letter on Friday that the pattern for attendance will be children attending school for two days per week, with some children also attending on a third morning depending on their circumstances. These two days will be either a Monday and Tuesday or a Thursday and Friday. The additional half day will be Wednesday.

Classes

Your child's class will be communicated to you separately by e-mail. Each class contains a primary stage, a letter and a number, for example, P2A1. The classes containing A and B will be attending school on Mondays and Tuesdays, the classes containing C and D will be attending school on Thursday and Friday. We have tried to ensure that all siblings in the school attend the same two days. If your children are down to attend different days then this is a mistake, please contact us regarding this. The number at the end denotes the times at which the children will arrive and leave, with 1 meaning 9am and 3pm, 2 meaning 9.05am and 3.05pm and 3 meaning 9.10am and 3.10pm.

So for example, P2A1 would attend Monday and Tuesday 9am-3pm, P5D3 would attend Thursday and Friday 9.10am-3.10pm.

The exception to the pattern described above will be the very first week, where the children in the A and B groups will attend on Wednesday 12th August, which will be their first day back.

I am very conscious that the situation we are in is not ideal. It is not possible to keep all groups of friends together and some children may be disappointed by this. As always we have to be mindful of working groups when creating classes. However, we have no room for manoeuvre with our classes given the sizes of our classes and the maximum numbers in each class due to social distancing. If your child is disappointed, please work with us and reassure them. Please do not ask for your child to be moved class, it is not possible. Instead please see the health and wellbeing information below, and further information which we will release in August.

At this stage our staffing has not been fully confirmed to the teachers will not be released with the classes – we will communicate this as soon as we can.

Health and Wellbeing

The lockdown and school closure will have been difficult for our children, and especially so for many of them. However, they will return to a situation where most are in a class of 12 or less. We plan therefore to treat every class as a nurture class, building on the good nurture strategies we already have in place across the school and allowing all of our children to recover well from the lockdown and support their mental health.

Blended learning

Our return to school in August will be based on a model of 'blended learning'. This basically means some work while they are physically in school and some work at home, continuing the home learning we have begun. This will in part be set by your child's own teacher and in part by other members of the team. We already plan to distribute over 50 laptops to our families to facilitate this, if you didn't manage to respond to our survey and feel your child could benefit from a laptop please contact me.

Recovery Curriculum

Our plan on return is to focus primarily on literacy, numeracy, and health and wellbeing in school. The home learning will consist of some follow up tasks related to the work done in school but also some work related to other curricular areas, for example topic work.

Organisation

We plan to return to school with the children based in zones. Basically these zones will be a part of the school and yard where a group of classes will be based. The children will rarely leave their class and not leave that part of the yard, therefore there will not be movement between these zones for pupils and very minimal movement between them for staff. All of the children in a particular zone will enter and leave the building through the same door, with entry and exit times being staggered as described above to ensure distancing and prevent congestion.

There will be a staggered start and end to the day as described above, with the children starting at five minute intervals from 9am and doing the same at 5 minute intervals from 3pm. Lunch time will also be more staggered to allow for appropriate social distancing at lunch.

The entry points for children will be clearly signposted and lining up places clearly marked. We will not be able to permit parents to enter the playground at any time, and children will be dismissed at the school gate. It's not how we normally do things, but all parental appointments will require to be pre-arranged, I'm afraid we will not be able to have drop-ins.

Due to the number of children involved, we really need everyone to be on time. I understand that sometimes lateness is beyond our control but we do rely on punctuality for your child's safety and wellbeing, and we really need children to be dropped off and picked up at the correct times. If you are late on a given day then you must bring your child to the front door, and not attempt to send them in with another group of pupils.

When the children enter the school they will wash and sanitise their hands, before proceeding straight to class. They will do this again on leaving and re-entering the building. The school will be cleaned regularly, and touch points have been removed. These means the building will look different, with minimal furniture in the bases.

Physical design of the school

Our classes in the class bases next session will have a maximum size of 12 (in most cases). We will be using the Noisy Quiet Room and ICT room as classroom and the classes in these will be slightly smaller. We will also have two older classes based either in the community centre or gym hall – I will be in contact regarding this when I know which will be the case.

Uniform

At this stage we plan to keep school as normal as possible for the learners, and this includes full school uniform on the days they attend school. This includes ties.

Lunch

The canteen will be open and lunches will be available for all pupils, however children are welcome to bring their own packed lunch too.

Further information

I plan to make two films showing all of the above, one for children and one for parents, and put on the on the app and twitter. I will do this towards the end of summer, once everything is in place, assuming I have the support of my ICT team (my children!)

I know this is a lot to take in and it's not an ideal situation. However, please be assured that we have worked as hard as we can so far, and will continue to do so, to ensure that our school is ready for children to come in, thrive, be safe and learn. There are many aspects of our return which are very exciting, including the support children will receive in very small classes, both academically and with their health and wellbeing. I can't tell you how excited we were to have groups of children back at school last week and we cannot wait to see all of our children again in August.

I hope you have a safe and happy summer

Colin Forbes

Head Teacher