



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

"LEARNING TOGETHER – AIMING HIGH"

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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland

4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming all our children back to St John's next week. This letter sets out the arrangements we have put in place in the context of the ongoing global pandemic. Please do take the time to read through the letter.

Just to remind you, our staggered start to term is as follows:

Monday 7 th September:	Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 8 th September:	Years 2, 3 and 4
Wednesday 9 th September:	Years 1, 2, 3 and 4
Thursday / Friday 10 th / 11 th September:	Reception play to learn and Years 1, 2, 3 and 4

Risk assessments and routines

We would like to reassure families that the health and safety of all school users is our top priority. As such, we are following government and local authority guidance, and have undertaken a thorough risk assessment. This risk assessment includes significant adjustments to our cleaning protocols, classroom set up and other procedures in school. Staff will work with children on new routines during their first week.

If you would like to see a copy of our risk assessment, you can view it on our website;

<https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/covid-19-status>

Letter from the Somerset Director of Childrens' Services

Included with this letter is a letter and flow chart from Julian Wooster, Director of Childrens' Services at Somerset County Council.



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

COVID-19 restrictions

If your child, or anyone in their household is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child or anyone in their household is experiencing symptoms, we would expect you to adhere to advised isolation periods and your child will not be permitted to attend school until any isolation is over. If your child is tested with a negative result, they can return to school, but we may ask to see evidence of the test result.

If anyone in your child's class starts to display symptoms of COVID-19 whilst at school, they will be isolated in a separate room (with an adult still present) and parents / carers will be requested to collect them as soon as possible.

If your child or a child in your child's class tests positive for COVID-19, we will contact Public Health England and follow their advice.

Please ensure that one of your child's contacts is available by phone throughout the school day, in case we need to get in touch with you urgently.

Arrivals and Collection

In order to maintain social distancing, we will have staggered arrival and collection times. Please can we stress the importance of arriving at your allocated time? If you are early, please wait away from the school premises and then come in at your allotted time. If you are late, please wait away from the school premises until after 9.15, and then drop your child off at main reception.

	Drop Off Time	Collection Time	Location
Ash	9.00	3.30	Reception Gate
Oak	8.45	3.15	Reception Gate
Poplar	9.00	3.30	Front Playground
Hawthorn	8.45	3.15	Front Playground
Beech	8.15	2.45	Front Playground
Fir	8.30	3.00	Front Playground
Willow	9.00	3.30	Back Playground
Rowan	8.45	3.15	Back playground
Sycamore	8.15	2.45	Back Playground
Maple	8.30	3.00	Back Playground

Siblings should arrive and be collected in the time slot and location for the youngest sibling.



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A one way system is in operation through the playgrounds;

- Reception Gate – please queue along Blindhouse Lane. You will be able to drop your child in the classroom and then leave through the school main entrance.
- Front Playground – please enter the playground from the gate at the top of the playground by the car park. Exit the playground by the gate adjacent to the dog grooming business.
- Back Playground – please enter the playground from the gate in the wall near Blindhouse Lane. Exit by coming round the side of the school building to the gate adjacent to the dog grooming business.

We appreciate that this one way system has unavoidable steps but is necessary to keep all our site users as safe as possible. We would appeal to all our school community to support each other and to help each other out with stairs where needed. If you have a mobility issue with negotiating stairs, please contact us.

When dropping off and collecting your child, please remember;

- There is no parking on or near the school site. The car park is staff only. If you need to bring a car, please park legally, at least 5 minutes away and walk to school.
- Please maintain a 1 - 2m distance from other people when on or near the school site where possible. Please queue up using the footprints marked on the playgrounds.
- When dropping off or collecting your child, please do not engage staff in conversation or pass on messages as we need to get children in and out as efficiently as possible. Please give any messages by email before you set off for school or call if the message is urgent.
- There will be no access to the front desk for parents. As above, any messages should be sent by email
- Please do not gather near the school site to chat with friends. We need to keep everybody moving for the safety of school users and local residents.

Wraparound Care

Early Birds and Twilight will resume from Monday 14th September. More information will be sent out early next week.

Messages, access to the school building and masks

Whilst pandemic restrictions are in place, only pupils, staff and authorised contractors / visitors will be permitted in the school building.

If you have a message or question, please get in touch with us by email (or by phone for anything very urgent). Please do not deliver messages to staff receiving or handing over children, and do not visit the front desk.

For all messages, please email stjohnsfrome@educ.somerset.gov.uk

We would like to let you know that government guidance states that there is no requirement for staff to wear a mask whilst carrying out normal duties while in school. Some members of staff may choose to do so, and we respect their personal decision. There are some circumstances where staff may wear a mask and/or other personal protective equipment (PPE), for example, whilst administering first aid.

Visitors to school will be asked to wear a mask whilst on the school site unless they have an exemption from wearing one.



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Absence from school

As school attendance requirements have returned to normal, we will monitoring attendance in the usual way.

We now have a dedicated absence line for you to let us know if your child is unable to attend school. Please call school and follow the instructions on the message.

Clothing, sun protection and items required in school

As previously advised, school uniform optional initially. Please be aware that we may be doing activities such as painting or play in the garden, so please ensure clothing is practical and easily washable. Shoes should be secured to the feet, so no flip flops, crocs or other loosely fitting shoes please. Children should not wear items of fancy dress and please name all clothing.

Please **DO** bring;

- A filled, named bottle of water (thoroughly washed each day please)
- A packed lunch in a secure container (if you haven't ordered a school lunch)
- A sun hat (if needed)
- A coat

Please do not bring any other items to school. In particular, please **DO NOT** bring

- PE kit or other school bag.
- Any toys / comforters, stationery or 'show and tell' items
- Any medication, unless previously agreed as part of a healthcare plan

Lunches

If you have not ordered a lunch for your child, please send them with a packed lunch in a secure container. We are a nut free school and have a number of children in school with potentially life threatening allergies. Please check labels and ensure you do not send any products containing nuts in your child's lunch.

Our behaviour policy

We will continue with the temporary annexe to our behaviour policy, to allow us to operate safely for all school users. We will require all children to adhere to the behaviour policy whilst at school and staff will spend time during the first week working on expectations and routines.

If a child is unable to keep to the behaviour policy and does not respond to our reasonable efforts, we may ask their parents to come and collect them. This may count as an exclusion under criteria set by the Department for Education.

Medication

We have suspended our usual medication policy and will not be able to administer any medication (including paracetamol and ibuprofen) unless it is a life saving measure administered in an emergency situation.

If your child requires any medication such as anti-histamine for hay fever, please ensure they have taken it before they arrive at school.



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If your child is prescribed antibiotics that need to be administered during the school day, please speak with us to discuss things further.

Curriculum

Once children have started and routines have been established we will send out more communication around our curriculum plans and home learning. As we let you know previously, we will be following a whole school topic for the first two or three weeks, based around the text 'Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers. The focus during this time will be very much around emotional wellbeing and settling back in to school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Claire Marsland
Headteacher



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