



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

"Together we will give our children
the roots to grow, and the wings to fly"

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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland

7th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. We are all really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school (or welcoming them for the first time) tomorrow morning. We would like to remind you of a few things ahead of tomorrow, and let you know some useful information about the measures we have in place around COVID.

Arrivals

- All Key Stage 1 children will arrive via the front playground and through the Year 1 classrooms.
- All Key Stage 2 children will arrive via the back playground and through the back door by the Library
- The doors will be opened at 08.40 and closed at 08.50
- Each door will have a member of staff supervising the door, ensuring children sanitise their hands and know where they are going
- We ask that all messages continue to be emailed in rather than given to adults on the door.
- Ash Class will arrive via the front playground and through the front door by Mrs Alexander's desk
- Oak Class will arrive via the back playground and through the back door by the library
- Ash and Oak Class need to arrive for 08.50 and will be met by their class teacher

Departures

- All children depart from the same place that they arrived at
- Ash and Oak Class will be dismissed at 15.00
- Year 1 and Year 3 Classes will be dismissed at 15.10
- Year 2 and Year 4 Classes will be dismissed at 15.15
- We ask that all parents do not stand too close to gateways and doorways – it is far easier for teachers if there is some space

PE Kit

- All children can wear PE kit on PE Days – there is no need for PE kit to be brought in or left in school
- PE Days will be confirmed during the first week of term
- Mr Croucher's timetable has not yet been organised for the new term, so I am letting you know that all children can wear PE kit on Thursday AND Friday of the first week. All classes will have PE on one of those days!



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.

Pencil Cases and Bags

- We are providing all children with pencil cases, which will be kept in school
- These pencil cases will be filled with all of the stationery they need
- Small bags or rucksacks are permitted – but please keep them small – the pegs are not very wide apart and if the bags are too big it makes the coats fall all over the corridor floor, which is not only dangerous but also not the way we want to treat your children's property
- Children can bring in their book bags – we will be issuing all new reception children with a new book bag free of charge next week.

COVID testing and contact tracing

We have updated our operational procedures in line with national and local guidance. A copy of our main risk assessment is on the school website here: <https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/covid-19-status>

Face Coverings

Staff, pupils or other users of the school site continue to be supported if they wish to wear face coverings, however, there is no requirement to do so.

What to do if a child develops COVID symptoms, or tests positive for COVID

If your child develops symptoms of COVID (which remain, a fever, a new continuous cough or a change / loss of taste / smell) they should isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test. Please notify school and do not send them in to school. If the PCR result is negative, they can return to school when they are well enough to do so. If it is positive, you should follow the isolation given by NHS test and trace.

Please note, lateral flow tests should NOT be used if your child is symptomatic, as you could get a false negative result.

What to do if a child is identified as a close contact of a positive COVID case

The guidance concerning close contacts has changed:

- Children up to the age of 18 years and 6 months do not have to self-isolate if they are in contact with someone who has a positive case. Instead, they can attend school as normal but must take a PCR test. If the PCR test is positive then the child will be required to isolate.
- Adults who are double vaccinated also do not have to isolate if they are in close contact of a positive case and should book a PCR test.
- Schools no longer have any responsibility for contact track and trace, but we will monitor any potential 'outbreaks' and respond appropriately.

Please be aware, if the local area is designated an 'Enhanced Response Area' by local or national health protection teams, we may be required to put in enhanced protection measures. If this is the case, we will inform families about any changes to our procedures.

Best wishes,

Mrs Claire Marsland
Head Teacher



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