

Euxton Church of England Primary School

Reopening Booklet for Parents

March 8th 2021



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In our Christian family, we all SHINE in the light of Jesus.

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Dear Parents,

We are all looking forward to having all our children back on 8th March! My aim of this booklet is to highlight the arrangements we have put in place to allow a safe return to school for all our children and staff. It outlines how we will organise our school, ensuring our school community understands and follows our safe routines. **Please note, this is very similar to the information sent out last summer, before we returned in September, however, there are updates. Please take the time to read carefully and fully understand the information. I appreciate that there is a lot of important information included, so I will email next week with a summary of the main points.**

On 22nd February, the Government announced plans that all children, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from 8th March 2021. Therefore, we are delighted to be able to welcome all our children back, full-time, from that date. While Coronavirus remains in the community, we have to make judgments at a school level about how to balance and minimise any risks from Coronavirus, whilst providing a full educational experience for our children. Our children are young, and they need a sense of normality, and therefore great consideration has been made to keep as much the same for them as possible and not subject them to un-necessary scaremongering. However, that certainly doesn't mean complacency and I am sure you will sense that when digesting the information provided.

The main advice is to minimise the number of contacts individuals have during the school day as part of implementing the system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission. The key principles that underpin the Government advice on back to school provision are:

- All children receive a high-quality education that promotes their development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- The curriculum remains broad and ambitious.

We have spent time planning for the safe return of our staff and children to our school but, as always in this current, unprecedented situation, some things may be subject to change. We will keep you informed of these changes as and when they occur. **I ask that you read through this booklet so that you are quite clear about our educational aims and objectives and our new safe routines that all staff and children must follow.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Nick Ward
Headteacher

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Wisdom Compassion Humility Friendship Peace Trust Forgiveness Hope

Safe Routines

All schools must comply with health and safety law, and are required to assess risks and minimise and reduce the risk of transmission:

1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

Children, staff and other adults **MUST NOT** come into the school if they have Coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive in the last 10 days. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they **WILL** be sent home and are advised to follow the most recent guidance on self-isolation and arrange for a test. Whilst this may have implications and cause inconvenience, this is something that needs to be non-negotiable unless advice received states otherwise. **We will continue to take the temperature of all staff and children each morning. This is being done in a non-threatening way. Should a temperature be 37.8 or above, you will be asked to collect your child and arrange a test for them. We will do this until Easter and then this will be reviewed. We have had full support from all our parents who have had to take their child for a test under these circumstances and expect this to remain the case. As always, PLEASE do not send your child to school if they are unwell.**

2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.

Coronavirus is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. Children and staff must clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, after using the toilet and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to still be needed for the foreseeable future. We have hand sanitiser points to each classroom and other key areas to save children needing to bring their own products into school. Frequent use of these, as well as soap and water, will continue to be heavily promoted.

3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important, so we must ensure that there are enough tissues and bins available in the school to support children and staff to follow this routine. Foot-pedal operated bins are in each area to reduce contamination.

4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.

In addition to personal hygiene procedures, we will be continuously cleaning areas which we feel will reduce the risk of contamination. We have in place a cleaning schedule that ensures:

- more frequent cleaning of rooms / shared areas that are used by different groups
- frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal
- designated toilet areas and increased cleaning of these spaces

We will also be ensuring that rooms are as well ventilated as possible and keeping doors open to reduce contact points. This will be better as we have warmer weather.

5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of Coronavirus. We must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing, whilst still delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The overarching principle we will apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping year groups separate in 'class bubbles', although this may also need to be in phase groups at certain points of the day, and through

maintaining distance between individuals. This will also include staff maintaining distance from children and other staff as much as possible. However, we are a primary school, and we are all aware that this 'ideal' is not going to be achieved in full. The Government have clearly stated that social distancing in primary education is not expected. However, we will be continuing with our own procedures to protect our school family as much as we can. Our children from Reception to Y3 have their own toilet facilities. Although Y4-Y6 children have shared toilet blocks, designated sinks and cubicles are assigned to classes to use. **Staff are now doing twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home and will continue to do so. Staff also wear a face covering when moving around the school and may at times do so if working in very close contact and they all wear PPE when administering first aid.**

Class 'Bubbles'

School will reopen on Monday 8th March for all pupils. Each class will remain in their own 'bubble' for the whole day.

Start and End of the Day

The start and end of the day will continue to be staggered so that the challenges of social distancing during these busy times are reduced. Only **one** adult should bring your child to school and if you feel your child is old enough at the upper end of school then you may want to encourage them to walk up and down the school drive independently. **A face covering must be worn by any adult or older sibling dropping off and collecting. Everyone should remain 2 metres away from anyone else. As soon as children are collected they must remain by your side and you must leave the premises as soon as possible.** The timings of the day, considering phase groups, will once again be:

	Reception	Y1 and Y2	Y3 and Y4	Y5 and Y6
Drop off	9:00am	8:55am	8:50am	8:45am
Collection	3:15pm	3:20pm	3:25pm	3:30pm

PLEASE stick to these times, or it may result in unnecessary waiting, which invariably increases risk. If you have more than one child in school, please bring all your children to school at the **earliest** time, and collect all your children at the **latest** time. **Staff will wear a face covering when welcoming the children in or seeing them out.** There won't be the same opportunities for discussions with staff, so please use email communication where possible. We will be continuing with our 'keep to the left' system. Any children who are in our Breakfast and After School Club will go to their respective classes at 8:45am and remain there until 3:30pm.

Out of School Club

This will be running at the usual times and operate in the same way they did in the Autumn Term, which was incredibly successful. The infants and juniors will remain in their separate areas. Within those two areas, each year group will be kept as separate as possible, especially when inside. **We will assume parents need the same times as they did in the Autumn Term, unless we are told differently.** Staff will be signing the children in and out of the provision for the foreseeable future and parents will not be able to come into the building.

Infants - Entrance into the Out of School Club room.

Juniors - Main entrance, as the children are accommodated in the hall.

The children will need to be collected from these places too. Please maintain social distancing at all times when waiting with/for your child. All children will wash their hands immediately after coming into school, and have their temperature taken.

Parking

Both schools will have staggered start and finish times. Please park with consideration for others. We suggest that if you need to get away quickly to work, that you do not use St. Mary's Church car park as this may become very congested. Please walk to school, or for part of your journey, if you can.

Break and Lunchtimes

The children will continue to be in 'phases' for these times, operating as infants, lower juniors and upper juniors. However, each class have their own designated areas throughout these times, to reduce contact as much as possible. These staggered times give children more space to play. Designated welfare staff will supervise specific phases where possible.

Food and Drink

The children will be able to bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner as usual and bring a named water bottle to school. The children will eat their lunch with their own 'class bubble' in their own area of the hall. Tables and chairs will be cleaned between groups. The children will continue to choose their meal in advance and have this brought to them, to restrict movement. Toast will be served as normal, or a **healthy** snack can be brought in, however these must not be shared with other children.

Curriculum

Staff will continue to assess the children through their everyday practice. As home learning has kept the curriculum going then hopefully we will be able to keep progressing, although we are mindful that areas may need to be revisited. The twice daily zoom teaching sessions will have supported this greatly. We will also provide the children with many wellbeing and social experiences, in a safe way. If you would like to share anything the children have been working on at home then you are more than welcome to send this in, but please don't worry if not.

Staffing

Teachers and support staff will remain in their own bubbles, with minimal mixing, until **at least Easter**. Mr Ogden will be returning after Easter, but this will still need to be percussion and music theory based. Unfortunately, for parents there will be limited face-to-face communication with staff. This will need to be through phone calls, emails or messages. This goes against everything we are; however I know you appreciate the reasons for these changes. Staggered break and lunchtimes, and additional protocol, limits the number of staff using shared areas and reduces mixing.

Classroom Organisation

Each Junior classroom will continue to have the children facing forwards, predominantly in rows. This will be their usual seating throughout for the majority of the time. Our Y2 children will also have elements of this, but we still do not feel this is appropriate for our Reception and Y1 children.

Resources

Please return any whiteboards, pens, books etc. to school on the first day back. Other than that, please limit what the children are bringing in to school, to avoid cross contamination. The children will only be allowed to bring essential items to school - water bottle, packed lunch, reading books. No large bags are allowed. All stationery will be provided by school and any reading books will have been quarantined or cleaned before passed between households. Children will have their own resources and equipment where possible, however it may be that they share items within their own class bubbles. Our through handwashing procedures will reduce risk. Resources which are used throughout the school, eg. laptops, iPads, PE equipment, etc, will be wiped before being used by a new class.

Outside Learning

The children will hopefully complete some of their learning outside, if the weather permits, therefore they **MUST** bring a coat. Suncream and sunhats/caps are essential if there is good weather (Reception and Y1 children already have these in school). Please apply suncream **BEFORE** leaving home. PE lessons will be outside, where possible, however we are fortunate that we have a large hall, and children will have PE lessons in their bubbles.

Worship

We will continue with our worship in class and in phases, and Rev. Jo will support this. I will continue to have a whole school Celebration Worship via zoom each Friday morning. 'Superstar's' will be awarded and to try and ensure all children are able to have the opportunity to be 'Superstar', staff will be awarding two 'Superstar's' each week. Please let me know if you have any achievements your child would like to share and we will have our weekly birthday 'shout-outs' as normal.

Parental Sessions

The children who haven't been in school should have had their more personalised zoom sessions this week, which I hope were useful. Parents Chats via phone have been scheduled for next week. We hope to be able to welcome parents into school as soon as we can. We can accommodate face to face chats if necessary in a safe and controlled way.

Uniform

Full school uniform must be worn but the children will still have their day of wearing their PE kit:

RECEPTION	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
WEDNESDAY	MONDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	THURSDAY	MONDAY	FRIDAY

Although we do expect full uniform, please don't go and buy new school shoes if your children are in need of these, this can wait until after Easter.

Illness

All parents must make note of the following important information:

- NO child must be in school if they are displaying any illness - sickness, cough, heavy cold etc.
- If any child falls ill in school, they will be isolated and supervised by a member of staff wearing PPE. Parents will be expected to collect them immediately. The rooms used by the group(s) will be deep cleaned.
- In a case of confirmed Covid-19, you will be informed and National Health Guidelines will be followed. The case will be shared with the relevant body and advice taken. For example, this may involve a year group or year groups needing to self-isolate for the recommended time.
- If your child is unwell, please let us know in the normal way, giving details of symptoms/illness.
- We will continue to take the temperature of all staff and children each morning. This is being done in a non-threatening way. Should a temperature be 37.8 or above, you will be asked to collect your child and arrange a test for them.

Attendance Expectations

School attendance will be mandatory again from 8th March. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age.
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence, as we always do.
- the availability to issue sanctions should school need to impose those.

Wellbeing and Behaviour

Hopefully, the daily feeling of 'being together' throughout this lockdown as a result of our zoom sessions will mean the children have felt more connected with their friends and with their school. However, we appreciate that there may be some anxiety. This is one of the reasons the teachers have had their small group zoom 'check-ins' and why we are having our 'Parent Chats' before we are all back together again. We will continue to give wellbeing such a high priority, there may be an increase in social, emotional and mental health concerns and some children may need additional support and access to additional services. We will work with local services (such as health and the local authority) to ensure the services and support are in place for a smooth return to schools for all of our children. Our school rules will need to be followed by all to ensure our children feel safe and happy in school. We need our children to be ready for their return to school, they must follow and respect our new way of working and practice safe routines such as hand hygiene and distancing as much as possible. As the return in September demonstrated, I am sure the children will adapt to these changes very well indeed.

Thank you

Once again, your support has been tremendous and much appreciated. The positive comments have kept us going and your continued communication invaluable. The engagement in home learning really has been staggering and is testament to both the dedication and amazing work you have done at home and the quality of the home learning and zoom sessions from our staff, which I am sure you will agree have been amazing. Thank you.

This continues to be the most unique situation and we all must still play our part in ensuring this is the last ever school closure for our children. Without this collaboration we will be at risk of having to go through all this again. There may be times when we have to have 10-day isolation periods, but our remote learning will be ready to be implemented again. If this does happen, which fingers crossed doesn't, then hopefully this will be rare. **However, it is important that you all know that we all want our children back at school full-time and we will continue to do all we can to ensure this happens.**

Thank you once again for trusting us. I promise we will continue to do our very best to keep everyone safe, not just in the physical sense, but mentally too. Our risk assessment will continue to be revised and updated, and always put onto our website. As rules relax, we will all be widening who we are in contact with, so I am sure you appreciate we cannot control everything.

I will keep in touch, as always, as to when things in school may change again. Hopefully this is the beginning of things gradually returning to the normality that we all love so much. There is a lot of hope out there right now, and hearing about vaccinations being administered continues to make us all very happy indeed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Mr Nick Ward
Headteacher

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