



St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School
Willowcroft, off Warwick Avenue, Quorn, Loughborough, LE12 8HQ.
Telephone: (01509) 412250

Wednesday 18th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. I am really excited to be taking over from Mrs Boston this' Autumn and look forward to welcoming you all back in to school. As the new school year fast approaches, I am writing to provide details for the start of term and some 'health, safety and well-being' updates.

TIMINGS - start and 'end of day'

Before the end of the summer term, families were sent a letter - 'Proposed Arrival and Collection Times, Autumn 2021' - outlining the drop-off and collection times for each class. To confirm, **these will be in place, as intended, for the start back**. All being well, they will then be reviewed as we move through the first half term.

As I am sure you would agree, it is really important that you keep to the timings, in order that teachers can begin lessons promptly and your child does not miss any learning – '*thank you' in advance*.

Please be aware: the 'registration' system, will mark as 'Late, from 10 mins after the end of your time period.

NEW STARTERS – FOUNDATION STAGE

I am mindful that information was first sent out in April and then over the summer term. So, just to outline and confirm, children new to school - joining our Foundation Stage - will be attending part-time (up to 11.15am) over the first two weeks, from Wed 25th Aug to the following Friday (3rd Sep).

Sadly, schools were unable to fulfil their normal induction plans for 'new starters' owing to COVID restrictions and subsequent DfE guidance. As I am sure you know, **parent/ carer meetings** have therefore been planned with you, for the afternoons of either Thu 26th Aug, Fri 27th or Tue 31st.

More information will follow shortly regarding an invite to stay for lunch in week 2.



COVID – update

We have all seen a number of changes across our daily lives in response to having reached ‘Step 4’. In schools, however, requirements remained very specific and stringent throughout and up to the end of the summer term, in order to keep pupils and the staff teams safe and well.

Whilst the latest guidance enables us to reinstate aspects of school life more akin to a pre-COVID set-up, I am mindful of the in-school experience for our pupils before breaking up for the summer... our younger pupils in Year 1 and 2 for instance, will only really be familiar with this. We also recognise that the ‘start back’ may also be an anxious period for some adults.

Our aim, therefore, is to ease the school community into things, as we hopefully return to some ways of working. For the moment...

HEALTH & SAFETY

In terms of school’s management of COVID, our health and safety plans will include the following Control Measures:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone - frequent hand-washing and/ or sanitizing still in place;
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes - lunchtime and end of day;
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated - balanced with maintaining a ‘working’ temperature;
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Positive cases and isolation

With regards to the latter, point [4.], we ask of course that pupils do not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them transmitting the virus. *Please do call and talk with us if you are unsure.*

Further, **latest (DfE) guidance states...** *If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they should be sent home and the household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE ‘stay at home’ guidance.*

As you may already be aware, in this instance, one key difference with our response now is that other pupils in the class (or what has been termed ‘bubble’) will not automatically be asked to isolate.

That said, a number of cases over a period of time may be considered an ‘outbreak’ and where necessary, we will seek and carefully consider, Local Authority and/ or DfE advice.



Face coverings

Unless necessary as part of managing an 'outbreak', **wearing a face covering whilst on the school grounds will be optional**. In the case of needing to come in to school (appointment only for the moment), you would be asked to don a mask at least whilst in communal and corridor areas.

REMOTE LEARNING

Virtual teaching and lessons will be maintained as needed, to enable those children having to stay at home in COVID-related circumstances, to continue with their learning.

If there are any changes or important additions to the above, as we make preparations over the next few days, I will write again to keep everyone updated.

Kindest regards,

Mr Clark
Headteacher

