



Bolton on Swale St Mary's CE Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Dobson B.Ed (Hons) NPOH

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

### **Planning for the return to school for all pupils in September 2020 – Information for Parents**

Following the government's announcement that schools will reopen fully in September, I am writing to share with you the arrangements we are currently putting in place to ensure the continued safety of all our pupils, staff and visitors. In the next few weeks we will be undertaking a robust risk assessment, building on what has worked well since our successful wider reopening at the beginning of June.

We are looking forward very much to seeing all our children once again and would like to reassure you that the safety of everyone in our school community continues to be our priority.

I can confirm that school will reopen to all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. Our Reception new starters will have transition visits starting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. They have received separate information about this.

### **Following government guidance the following measures will be in place to keep everyone in our school community safe:**

- **Handwashing** ensuring everyone cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating – this can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser which will be available throughout school
- **Cleaning** enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- **Hygiene** ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- **Class groups** keeping children in their class groups as much as possible to minimise social contact
- **Symptoms** anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who lives with someone who is showing symptoms, must not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school
- **NHS Track and Trace** anyone with symptoms must engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to get a test and you should inform school of the results of that test. All staff and pupils will have access to testing if they develop symptoms of coronavirus, and rapid action will be taken should any test come back positive to ensure that the school continues to be a safe environment. We will follow advice from our local health protection team.
- **Beginning and end of the school day** are the busiest times for children and adults meeting together so to help maintain social distance the following measures will be in place:
  - Parents and children should avoid using public transport to come to school
  - Children can arrive at school and will be welcomed into their classrooms between 8:45am and 9am each day with lessons starting at 9am promptly (new Reception starters have a separate timetable)
  - **Class 1** – children will enter school through the first red gate of their outdoor area (follow signs)

- **Class 2** – children will enter school through the middle red gate of their outdoor area (follow signs)
- **Class 3** – children will enter school through the KS2 entrance to the hall
- **Class 4** – children will enter school through the Class 4 external fire door, turning left at the gate from the playground

**When we return to school in September Mrs Dobson and other school staff will be visible and available at the entrances to school to welcome our children and to reassure them.**

- **Limiting access to the school building for parents and visitors** To keep everyone safe parents and carers should not enter the school building. Please try not to visit the school office unless you really need to (such as forgotten packed lunch or medication). If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to speak to a teacher please email or telephone the school office. Messages will be taken before, during and after the school day and teachers will communicate with you by phone, email or in the outside areas of school as appropriate. For the time being, we will not be inviting parents into school each Friday afternoon for our weekly Special Mentions Assembly. We will be planning other ways to share your child's learning with you.
- **Arrangements for break times and lunchtimes** We continue to value the importance of our children having a break from learning and enjoying time playing outside together during the school day. Each Class will continue to have a 15 minute break both morning and afternoon and an hour for lunch. Each class will play in their own area of the school grounds with their own play equipment.
- **School lunches** will continue to be cooked as normal. Children may still bring packed lunches if they prefer. We have a new cook, Danielle, who is currently cooking delicious lunches following the North Yorkshire school menu.

### **Supporting our children and families on their return to school**

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent months have been for everyone and we recognise the need to focus on pupils' emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. Our teachers will continue to communicate with you regularly and to meet the individual needs of your child with the same care and concern they have always done. A broad and balanced curriculum will continue to be taught and children's individual learning needs will be met.

### **What should my child bring to school in September?**

Your child should wear school uniform; bring a full water bottle each day; bring a PE kit in a drawer string bag; bring a school book bag or similar **small** bag which they can put their reading book and homework in. They should not bring a pencil case; all stationery equipment will be provided.

**Attendance** From September, the government have stated that attendance will be mandatory for all children and, therefore, all children should return to school. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply. A small number of pupils will be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school for this reason, you should contact school and advice will be given about what support is available in terms of remote education. Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1st August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus. This means that the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

**I hope that these arrangements provide you with the information you need to support your child's return to school in September. I will ensure you are updated with any changes.**

**If you have any unanswered questions or any queries at all, please email me directly: [headteacher@bolton-on-swale.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@bolton-on-swale.n-yorks.sch.uk). I will do my best to respond and will be available over the summer holidays on this email also.**

## Thank you

On behalf of all our school staff, I would like to thank each of you for your wonderful support during the past four months. Your commitment to working in partnership with us on home learning has been commendable and we have been so impressed with the high quality of work our children have completed. Thank you for sharing your child's work from home with us this week – we are very proud of all our children. Equally, for those children of Key workers who have been with us throughout lockdown – your children have been excellent also. As a community, everyone is to be congratulated on the way in which they have worked together to be so supportive.

## Year 6 Leavers

We say farewell to 15 of our Year 6 children this year. We are holding a Virtual Zoom Leavers Assembly with our Year 6 children, their families, our school staff and parish and governor representatives on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm. This is by invitation only.

We also say farewell to Teddy and Ozzie, Service pupils who are leaving us this summer due to posting. We wish them all well, remember them in our prayers and give thanks for all their contributions to our school community.

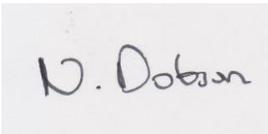
## Summer Holiday Club

A reminder that Shelly Tait is providing summer holiday care in school on Monday and Tuesday starting next Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and running for the first 5 weeks of the school holidays. This is for children in our school only. Please contact Shelly directly by email: [shellyschildminding7@gmail.com](mailto:shellyschildminding7@gmail.com) to book a place.

## Wishing you well for the summer

Many thanks for your good wishes and very kind gifts as we mark the end of the school year. All the staff join with me in wishing you a good summer break, with the return of some sunshine! We look forward to teaching everyone in their class groups in September.

With my very best wishes,



Email contact: [headteacher@bolton-on-swale.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@bolton-on-swale.n-yorks.sch.uk)

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