



St Alban's CE Primary School

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Dear parents and carers,

We do hope that you are all keeping well. We have missed having you all at school and part of our community and hope you have stayed safe.

The end of the school year and other updates:

Hopefully you will all know by now when your child has been invited to come into school for their last morning with their class teacher. Please send your child with a drink/ water bottle. Messages informing you of when your child can attend have been sent on Class DoJo or, for those who have not registered, they have been emailed. We cannot urge you all enough to register for Class DoJo as soon as you can (we just have a few parents who have not yet done this), as it is a quick and easy way for us to communicate with you and for you to message teachers and leadership directly with any questions or concerns you have. We will be continuing with Class DoJo in the new school year.

School closes for all pupils on Friday 17th July at 12 pm. We would like in particular to say a fond farewell to our Y6 pupils and wish them all the best as they continue their journey to secondary school. Some staff leave at the end of term too, including Mrs Flatt and Mr Dawson, who both leave to join the staff team at Flanderwell Primary School, and of course our much-loved Business Manager, Mrs Tune, after over 25 years at our school. We thank them all for their commitment to our school.

The new school year in September:

School reopens for **all pupils** from September, and the first day of term for pupils is Thursday 3rd September (Foundation Stage will have their own staggered start dates). We can't wait to have everyone back and have missed you all!

Government guidance is now out to help us plan for a September start. We are ready to go. Below, I have listed some of the ways that we will be keeping everyone safe. School will feel different but within the safety of the classroom your child will have some sense of normality and routine – we know they are ready for that.

How will we keep your child safe?

Classes	The government has now said that we can return to full classes of around 30 from September. These classes will form a 'bubble' and will not mix with other bubbles in large group gatherings such as on the playground or in the hall for assembly. Within their class bubble, they do not need to social distance, although we will always reinforce that importance of this, particularly with junior children.
Lessons	Online learning tasks set by class teachers will cease from the 16th July 2020. In this letter we will go on to explain how we will recover any learning that has been missed.
Equipment	Classrooms will be organised so that children sit side by side and facing the front rather than across from each other on a table. We will no longer need to separate tables two metres apart. We will be providing children with their own writing equipment in order to minimise contact and the sharing of resources. Children will need to have their own water bottle in school every day: please make sure they bring this. As always, please label your children's equipment wherever possible in order to minimise shared contact. Please do not let your children bring any equipment into school, other than book bags, a PE kit and a water bottle. They will need to bring their book bag every day and any books that have been used stay within the class bubble and are not to be used by children in the rest of school. When we will use shared resources such as PE equipment or science equipment, for example, we will be disinfecting it after a class bubble has used it.

Social Distancing	Children will be given regular reminders about social distancing and signage is in place, but social distancing cannot be guaranteed as children are children – we are glad the government guidance recognises that and understands that they will not need to social distance within their bubble. Staff continue to ensure they adhere to social distancing guidance when they are in contact with each other.
Hygiene	Children will be given very regular reminders and opportunities for handwashing. Children will be encouraged to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day.
Cleaning	Our cleaning staff are absolutely dedicated and are working continuously to ensure that the school is a safe environment in which to learn and work. Daily deep cleans take place at the end of each school day and all school staff have a cleaning routine to follow throughout the day on classroom surfaces (handles, equipment, etc) at very regular intervals.
Breaks	All breaks will be at staggered times and in different areas of the school grounds (weather permitting). Children will remain in their set 'bubbles' in order to minimise contact.
Lunches and Lunchtimes	There will be no hot meals provided by Taylor Shaw in the first half term, as we will need to organise for children to eat their lunches in the classroom. However, you will still need to book a packed lunch online (free for infants and those in receipt of free school meals) or send your child with a packed lunch.
Illness	Any child complaining of feeling ill or who has a temperature will be cared for following our usual procedure but will need to self-isolate in the office area and parents/ carers will be contacted to pick up as soon as possible in order to minimise contact with others. If your child or someone in your household is unwell or shows any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, then please do not send them to school under any circumstances in order to prevent the spread of the illness to other children and staff. In this instance, the child should be self-isolated wherever possible for 7 days and all fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. Please let us know urgently if this is the case as <i>'where a child tests positive, the rest of the class/group should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.'</i> (DfE Guidance).
Uniform	Please send your child in uniform as usual. Guidance says that you do not have to wash uniform any more frequently than you usually would.
Attendance	All children will need to return to school in September. We will be chatting to parents of any child who is categorised as extremely clinically vulnerable. Guidance says that it is now safe for your child to return if they are living with someone who is clinically vulnerable. Please do not book holidays for September. The start of term is going to be a huge transition for children, and they need to settle into new routines quickly. It is also the month when we will be finding out which children have gaps in learning and starting the work of catching up on that learning. If you go away on holiday in September, your child will be considerably disadvantaged.
Access to school	Only staff, children, specialist teachers such as music teachers will be allowed into school. You will need to drop your child off at the gate identified below and at the time mentioned below and collect them from the same place. This will minimise the number of adults within the school grounds and keep our children safer. Staff will be at the school gates ready to collect children from you – please do not worry we will take care of them! Should you need to chat to us, please either phone school, message us on DOJO or email us and we will phone you back. Entry and Exit Gates: Main entrance in the infant playground: 8.40a.m start and 3pm collect FS2, Year 6, Year 4 Tanyard gate: 8.40a.m. start and 3pm collect Year 3, Year 5 Church Gate: 8.40a.m. start and 3pm collect Year 1, Year 2 If you have children with different access gates, we understand you may need to select one to bring the children to.
Wrap around care	We have been talking to POPS adventure, our Wrap Around Care provider, and they have been waiting for specific government advice before publishing their plans for September. They are confident they can definitely provide the breakfast provision in our school hall but need some more government guidance before they can provide more details about after school – they are very keen to reopen. Please contact them as a matter of urgency to book your places, as it will help them understand demand and plan for staffing.

Recovery plans:

We are parents too. We understand how difficult lockdown has been for parents, managing their own work alongside online learning, balancing concerns for the wellbeing of the child with their own guilt that they don't have capacity to support home schooling as much as they would like. We understand. You may be worried about how much learning your child has missed out on, but we want to reassure you that we have a plan. A good and well thought out plan. We have this covered.

We always publish our action plans on our school website for September, and when we do that this year, we will send you a link so you can view our plans for yourself. To summarise here, though, we have plans in place for the following:

1/ Recovery of the curriculum. We have identified which aspects of the curriculum would have been taught in summer term 2020 for all year groups and we have devised ways of recovering that throughout the year combined with 2020/21 teaching. We are not repeating a year but are being smart about how we bring match those objectives up to other things we will be teaching.

2/ Recovery for individual pupils. Nearly all pupils will catch up missed learning from the actions of 1/ above, recovery of the curriculum. Some pupils, however, may need more bespoke catch up throughout the year. We are planning very targeted support to any pupil who needs this from September.

3/ Recovery of the school community. We are acutely aware than transition back to school may be hard for some children, and we need to provide a safe place where they can reconnect with their friends and feel happy again.

We do hope that this letter has answered any questions you have about September, but please contact us if you have any concerns at all.

Thank you so much for your encouraging, kind words, your support at home with learning and for sharing this journeying on this strange, unsettling time with us.

Yours, with love,

Alison Adair
Executive Headteacher

Amy Gurner
Head of School