



# Claverley Church of England Primary School

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3.03.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. The staff are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We are all fully aware that the pandemic is not over, though it feels as if there is light at the end of the tunnel, it is essential that we all work together to protect each other. It is vitally important that you ensure you have read the 'Return to School 8<sup>th</sup> March' post from 24<sup>th</sup> February (also on Covid-19 page of the website) as it lists all of the routines that we are following on the return to school. A copy of the risk assessment is on the Covid-19 page too.

## Back to School Guidance

It is imperative that we are able to keep children and staff safe at school whilst providing the best possible education for them.

Though many will be looking forward to returning to school, I know that there will be some parents and children who are feeling anxious - this is perfectly understandable. Please be assured that all our plans for the reopening of the school have been carefully considered in order to ensure the health, well-being and safety of the whole school community.

## **Well-being**

After having weeks at home, or if your child has been in school in a small group, the returning to school may well be a sensory overload and it is only natural that your child (and you) maybe feeling apprehensive. School will seem busy and probably very noisy, it may feel overwhelming at times and we are carefully planning to make sure that children feel safe and reassured. **Please read some 'Top tips' about how to support your child for the return to school**

- If your child is feeling worried about starting school again, having a plan in place can help them to feel more in control. If your child is feeling tearful/anxious make time to explore how they might be feeling. Drawing and playing with you to express how they are feeling can also be very helpful for those children who find it hard to say in words.
- Start getting up the usual time for a school day and remind children about the routines of a school morning - it maybe a shock to the system!
- Talk through their school day with them and any after school activities
- Expect them to be tired, there may well be tears, tantrums or bad moods
- Remember their water bottle, pencil case (for older children in Blue), one school bag, separate outdoor shoes and healthy snack

## **Feeling self-conscious**

There may have been a physical change with your child and they may be feeling self-conscious; they may have had a growth spurt or gained weight, for the older children they may be showing signs of puberty and their body shape may have changed. Their hair might be longer or they may have had a terrible home hair



cut! These are all things that can make the return to school trickier. Please reassure them that there will be lots of children who will be having similar feelings and that even though they may be feeling nervous and apprehensive, once they are back at school and they see their friends and teacher/teaching assistant, then hopefully any worries will disappear. We will certainly look after them, checking in with them lots and please remind your child to talk to an adult if they are feeling worried or upset.

It might be helpful to do some reflective listening/mentalising, see the examples below:

'Notice, describe and wonder out loud' if your child is showing signs of worry or anxiety so they know they aren't on their own with difficult feelings. It can feel a relief for children to know someone close has an idea of what they might be experiencing, e.g. 'I'm wondering whether you're feeling a bit anxious or worried?' Or, 'It's been a really difficult year and a lot of children feel confused and upset by what has been happening and now there's more change coming up because everyone's back to school. I'm wondering how that's feeling for you?'

### **Start and end of the day**

Please wear a face covering when on site picking up and dropping off your children.

When you drop off or collect your child from school, please leave the site immediately and do not congregate outside the school gates. If you are talking with another parent outside of school, please keep your distance and also consider wearing a face covering.

### **Curriculum**

Over the next few weeks the staff will be working to settle the children back into school. They will also be assessing the children's learning and using this information to plan our 'recovery curriculum'.

### **Proposed Parent Consultations**

We are planning parent consultations once the children are back in school. This will be an opportunity for you to feedback to your teachers on how your children were during lockdown and for your teachers to let you know how your children are settling back into school. More details on this will follow.

### **Attendance**

School attendance is mandatory and all children are expected to return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please notify school if your child is unable to return to school due to any restrictions in place because of Covid-19.

### **Sickness & Illness**

If your child is feeling unwell, we are asking that you err on the side of caution; please do not dose your child up with Calpol and send them to school.

If your child or anyone in your family shows signs of Covid-19, please organise getting a Covid test and make sure all of the family isolate until you have results. Notify school about any absence and any symptoms your child or a family member has.

If a positive test is received, then you must follow the guidance about isolating for 10 days from when they first had symptoms. We ask that you contact the school ASAP to let us know.

Other members of your household should also self-isolate for 10 days from the point when your son or daughter first showed symptoms.

### **General Health & Safety measures**

The school has undertaken thorough risk assessments around the reopening. All decisions have been based on advice from the government and Public Health England.

The following measures will be in place to mitigate risk:

- For the majority of the school day, children will only be in contact with other members of their class; playtimes and lunch times the children will be in class bubbles.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and class bubbles will not mix during the school day.



- As recognised by the DfE, it is very difficult for primary aged children to observe social distancing rules, particularly in the younger years. We cannot guarantee that they will not come into contact with others, but we will talk to the children about the importance of maintaining as much distance as possible, and about not touching each other.
- Children will continue to wash/sanitise their hands as soon as they arrive at school, and this will happen several times throughout the school day.
- Children have been taught and will be reminded to 'catch it, kill it and bin it' if they need to cough or blow their noses, in order to dispose of their tissues safely. Each classroom has a lidded bin for the disposal of tissues.
- Children's toilets will be additionally cleaned, mid-way through the day and after morning break.
- We have an enhanced cleaning plan in place, and there will be cleaning of communal areas and shared resources throughout the day, with a thorough clean of classrooms and facilities at the end of each day.
- All areas being used will also be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each school day, e.g. wiping of tables, doorknobs and light switches, etc.

**Lunch time** - school meals will be available again from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and the menu will be on the website. Children will eat lunch, whether school lunch or packed lunch in the hall in their class bubble.

#### **Staff - Lateral flow tests**

Staff are now self-testing twice a week to help us pick up and identify asymptomatic cases of Covid-19. Outside the classroom and when moving around the school staff are now wearing face coverings. Staff will also be wearing face coverings at the start and end of the day when they greet and say goodbye to the children. Staff have the option to wear face coverings in the classroom.

#### **Primary aged children – Lateral flow tests**

**The announcement this week stated that 'All households with children of school age can get 2 rapid Covid-19 tests per person per week.'**

Whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March.

To order tests, follow the link <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

#### **Remote learning**

We very much hope there won't be any further bubble or school closures. However, if we do need to close a bubble then Remote Learning will be provided.

#### **Play dates**

While the children are returning to school on Monday, we would like to remind you **that we are still in a national lockdown and would therefore ask that you do not organise playdates with other children after school.**

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Best wishes

J. Derrer