

4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are ready and excited to welcome your children back to school! I hope the summer break has left you rested and your family is ready for the new normal!

There will be mixed feelings for sure and that is only normal. I hope we reassured many of you by the success of Stokenham's opening, for certain groups, during June and July. We intend to operate in a very similar fashion for this term, just with larger numbers. We are ready and looking forward to embracing the new academic year on Monday, 7th September and get back to teaching and celebrating your children's successes.

Our children will have all had different experiences during the lockdown phase; with a loss of routine, school structure and friendships. We will be focusing on helping your child adjust to being back in school and helping them to re-engage with their friends and learning.

We know that you may have a lot of questions and we don't want you to feel anxious or to worry about anything. Do contact us if you have any queries or concerns, no matter how small. The best way to contact us is by telephone or email.

Safety Measures

We have been working hard to make sure the school is a safe and enjoyable environment and we enclose an updated copy of the Information Sheet that was sent out on 15th July. Please have another read over the weekend so you have a good understanding of how the school is going to operate from Monday.

The Information Sheet has been amended to reflect the new guidance on how long your child should self-isolate if they have symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started (previously it was 7 days).

Curriculum

From September our Recovery Curriculum will focus on helping children transition back to school and reconnect with their learning. Alongside our broad and balanced curriculum, there will be an emphasis on PSHE to support children's wellbeing, giving them opportunities to discuss their life experiences and emotions during these unusual times.

It is important that our curriculum continues to build and develop children's learning. Teachers will be thoroughly assessing the children on their return and they are planning to revisit the most important knowledge and skills the children will have learnt during lockdown to ensure they are able to consolidate and progress with their learning.

We have received various resources from Public Health England, the Department of Education and Mentally Healthy Schools which you may find useful:

Public Health England – Ebug

- “My Back to School Bubble” e-storybook for parents/carers to read with younger children to help them understand new COVID-19 protective measures and tackle anxiety about returning to school

https://e-bug.eu/downloads/english/COVID19_006_My%20Back%20to%20School%20Bubble_English.pdf

Mentally Healthy

'Mentally Healthy Schools' is a primary school website that has produced a new toolkit of resources for schools and families, all focused on making sure the return to classrooms in the autumn is a mentally healthy one.

Although some children have returned to school already, for many, the new autumn term will be their first time stepping into a classroom since lockdown began. Understandably, this may be a strange or worrying time for some children, parents and carers, and schools.

Please feel to access the resources, featuring activities and tips for how to prepare their child for re-starting school.

https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/coronavirus-returning-to-school-toolkit-8/?utm_source=DfE&utm_medium=bulletin&utm_campaign=coronavirus8&utm_content=toolkit

Department of Education's Strategy for Returning to School

- The social media posts using #backtoschoolsafely:
<https://twitter.com/educationgovuk/status/1295737399042027530>
- <https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/photos/a.317627041606420/3191534104215685/?type=3&theater>
- DfE Information www.gov.uk/backtoschool

We look to welcoming you on Monday, please be mindful of the drop off and pick up guidelines detailed in the Information Sheet:

- Please do NOT park in the Bus Bay.
- The Bus Bay will be used as the children's pedestrian Drop Off and Pick-Up Point.
- Parking along Kiln Lane will be limited and we would encourage all children to walk or cycle to school where possible.
- If you have to drive, we have arranged for parents to use the Church car park and the public car park in front of the Church House Inn public house and walk to school. Please do NOT use the Church House Inn car park directly in front of the Church.
- If your child is eligible to come to school by bus please use the school bus to alleviate traffic congestion outside school.
- Parents are not allowed on school site without an appointment.
- Only one parent per family to drop off and pick up. Please observe the social distancing guidelines.
- Please be punctual and please do not loiter around the Bus Bay as gathering at the school gates is not permitted.
- If you have pre-school children with siblings in school please come at your Pre School slots on the days your Pre School children are coming to school and their normal time slots on the other days. It would be helpful if you could let your teacher know by email what days these are.
 - Drop off: 9.05am Stokenham Pre School & 9.20am for Merry Go Round
 - Pick up 3pm Stokenham Pre School & 3.20pm Merry Go Round.

Kind regards



Tess Coulthard
Acting Executive Headteacher

Attachments: Information Sheet, Map of School, Lunch Menu & Order Form