



Clanfield Church of England Primary School

27th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have enjoyed the summer break and had some relaxing family time after a very challenging year indeed. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and as promised this letter will provide you with more specific details with regards to autumn term arrangements.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mrs Brown on her recent baby news- she and Mr Brown are expecting a baby and her maternity leave will commence in January. On that same topic, Mrs Heaslip our catch-up teacher, had a baby girl and family Heaslip are all doing well.

COVID-19 protocols and risk assessment

In line with the latest DFE 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance' (August 2021) we have reviewed and updated our school risk assessment and procedures. As restrictions have now been lifted, we have adapted our risk assessment to incorporate this into pre COVID school life whilst ensuring that we are taking all precautions possible to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in school.

The following Control Measures will remain priority in the daily management of the school day. From September we will continue to:

- Maintain good hand washing and hygiene through encouraging frequent hand washing.
- Reinforce the 'catch it, bin it and kill it' regime.
- Ensure the classrooms and school building are always well ventilated throughout the school day.
- Maintain high standards of cleaning throughout the school.
- School staff will continue with COVID testing twice a week.
- Keep updated with Public Health advice.

School Attendance

DFE guidance states very clearly that :'**School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend the school day.**' This includes all Clinically Extreme Vulnerable children unless they have specifically been advised by the GP or clinician not to attend school. This only applies to a very small number of children and evidence would be required in this case. I will be working closely with Miss Castle to ensure that children's attendance in school remains consistently good. Parents will be contacted where we have attendance concerns.

Start and finish times for the school day

Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time and ready to start the school day. Being late to school will have an impact on your child's attendance and parents will be informed where we have concerns. For this term, we will continue with the arrangement of parents dropping off the children at the school wooden gate in the morning and the children walking by themselves to the yard to meet the class teacher. **Ruby (Reception) parents** will be able to come onto the school yard and can drop off at the green gate for the first 2 weeks to ensure the children are settled into



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their new school. **All** parents will be able to collect children from the school wooden gate at the end of the school day.

Classroom Bubbles

The latest guidance states that schools are no longer required to keep children in a consistent bubble. Children will be mixing with other children on the playground now. Classrooms will be set up with children working in groups and we shall be coming away from children sitting in rows. This will provide the children with a more effective way to discuss learning with their peers and for teachers to focus on specific learning points with different groups of children. The children will be able to share resources. We will provide an enhanced clean at lunchtime again until half term. In the interim, assemblies will remain outdoors.

Break and Lunchtime Arrangements

Latest DFE guidance states that schools do not have to make alternative arrangements for children at break and lunchtimes. Children will be mixing both in the dining hall and on the yard during the break and lunchtime periods. All the children will have the same break and lunch times and will be able to mix on the school yard and field.

The children will now eat their lunch in the school dining hall.

Face Coverings

Wearing a mask is now personal choice so we shall be kindly asking that our staff and visitors to the school, wear a face covering in communal/corridor areas. It would be very much appreciated if parents **could continue to wear a face mask** especially when entering the school drive/ grounds/ building. This is to protect our school community especially in areas of the school that become very busy. We will monitor this situation and anticipate dropping the requirements for masks on the school drive in 2 weeks.

PE

Children will be expected to wear PE kit on PE days and will not change for sport. School shoes for this year need to be dark in colour and trainers will be accepted. When we return, we will be looking into our after-school provision and for this year will look to provide one sport/art club until we feel confident with the situation.

Positive COVID cases

Parents should continue to follow Public Health advice with regards to children displaying symptoms and self - isolation. **Children should not come to school if they are displaying symptoms or have tested positive. If a child develops symptoms whilst at school, they will be separated from the other children, and they must be collected from school.**

If your child has a positive LFT result, then they will need to self - isolate and take a PCR test. Whilst waiting for the PCR test your child should continue to self - isolate and must not attend school.

Please be assured that our staff will continue to adhere to Public Health guidance with relation to displaying symptoms or testing positive.



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Close Contacts

From 16th August 2021, primary aged children are no longer required to self - isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as being a close contact to someone that has tested COVID positive. Your child will be able to attend school as normal. However, it is advised that you arrange for your child to have a PCR test for extra precaution.

We will ensure that we regularly review and update our risk assessment and have incorporated a contingency plan should we see a rise of cases in school or the local area. We will continue to liaise with Public Health should this occur. Any changes to school arrangements will be communicated with parents.

I appreciate that there is a lot of new information and changes for the new academic year, but teachers will work with the children to inform them of new school routines and procedures. If you have any queries before we start the new school year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer break and look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 2nd September.

Kind Regards

Mrs Kim Rogers
Headteacher