



Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents,

**PLANS FOR OPENING SCHOOL TO MORE GROUPS IN WEEK 3 - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
*At Saint Patrick's our approach will be to start.....SAFE.....SMALL.....SLOW.....FAIR.....*

It was a delight to see some of our Reception children return to school this Monday after such a very long time. Whilst some may have felt anxious lining up with their parent at the start of the day, they were very soon happy to be back in their classrooms, play areas and with their classmates. A number were exhausted after a full day though!

**Following a review of our risk assessments - staff capacity, school environment and the ability for us to maintain a regular deep cleaning regime, we can confirm that in week 3, week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, in addition to our usual groups, we will also be welcoming children from our Reception class and Year 1 class on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Reception and Year 1 parents will have already indicated their wish to send their child back, and will have been contacted by us today, via Parentmail, to confirm their place in a new bubble next week.**

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**BOOKING PLACES**

Parents of key worker children or vulnerable families must indicate their wish to book places for EACH NEW WEEK by the previous **Wednesday at 9am deadline**. After this deadline, the school will be able to review risk assessments, staff capacity, school environment and the ability for us to maintain a regular deep cleaning regime.

*Please be clear that, unlike Term 5, parents may not drop children into school on a casual basis without having booked a place the week before, as this will compromise the integrity of our Bubble groups. If the school does not have a record of your child's name on the register for that day, then they will not be permitted to attend school.*

Parents cannot make special requests that their child be placed in a bubble with a specific teacher, or pupil friend. We are sure that you can understand the complexity of how places for pupils are allocated on a weekly basis, so can't consider your preferences, but please be assured that we do make decisions which we believe are best for the wellbeing of your child.

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**IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK**

If your child is expected to attend school, but they are unwell, please do keep them away school. It is important that you contact the school as soon as possible to inform us of your child's absence, as well as the reason for absence, symptoms etc. This is an important part of the school's daily register to the Department for Education and Wiltshire Council, and informs the Government Track and Trace system.

**FROM THE GUIDANCE -**

**Should a child come to school if a member of their household is unwell?**

If a member of the child's household is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, then the child should isolate for 14 days or 7 days from the date they themselves become symptomatic.

**Which contacts need to self-isolate?**

Current guidance recommends that where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Please note: The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

**A child reports to us that they have had contact with someone with symptoms, but the parents have not informed us – what should we do?**

No one with symptoms should be attending school and anyone who develops symptoms while at school should be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. Schools should regularly remind parents of the government guidance on staying at home and the importance of a household self-isolating if anyone in the household develops symptoms.

**Do you have specific advice on who is a contact of a case, i.e. the definitions?**

A contact is defined as a person who, in the period 48 hours prior to and 7 days after the possible or confirmed case's symptom onset or specimen collection date, has at least one of the following types of exposure:

**Household contact:** Those that are living or spending significant time in the same household e.g. those that live and sleep in the same home, students in university accommodation that share a kitchen and sexual partners and people who have cleaned a household where a case lives without personal protective equipment.

**Non-household contact:**

Direct contact: Face to face contact with a case for any length of time, including being coughed on or talked to. This includes exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.

Proximity contact: Extended close contact (within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a case or travelled in a small vehicle with a case.





An extract from the most up to date Government guidance about what to do if someone shows symptoms, is attached at the end of this letter.

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### MANAGING AND PREPARING TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

We have now produced a video which will hopefully help those children who will be returning to school after a while and are unfamiliar with our 'new normal' environment and routines. We hope that this acts as a reassuring tool for parents and pupils.

**We have made a new tab on the school website - 'COVID-19 NEWS'.** On it you will find most recent information from school or Gov. UK, as well as some helpful resources such as a social story booklet for children called '**COVID-19 Return to School: A Social Story for Primary Aged Students**', as well as the excellent '**Coming Back to School in a Bubble**' which may be helpful to read with your child.

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### TO THOSE FAMILIES CONTINUING HOME LEARNING

Earlier this week, you will have heard the Government announce that they do not expect those pupils from Years 2 / 3/ 4 and 5 to return to school before the end of the academic year. We recognise that parents and pupils will be disappointed and frustrated, and we want to do all we can to help these children feel motivated and connected with their school family. As a result, the staff are now working to produce a new form of Home Learning pack, in addition to making contact with each class member. We will share these new plans with you next week.

Just as an indication of how things are going in school, all available teaching staff are now committed to teaching a bubble each week in addition to preparing weekly work packs and making phonecalls home to every child in their own classes.

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### YEAR 6 TRANSITION

Our Year 6 teachers have been working on an exceptionally thorough transition process of completing paperwork and meetings with Heads of Year 7 to discuss each of our children moving on in September.

We do recognise how important term 6 is for our pupils, both with regard to 'bridging units' to aid a smooth transition, a focus on 'Growing Up' (and especially managing puberty), as well as the 'right of passage' traditions we have at Saint Patrick's which mark and celebrate each Year 6 cohort as they leave us and move on. We have been working behind the scenes to ensure that our Year 6 pupils will not be robbed of these milestones.

Hopefully, we will see the return of our Year 6 pupils (in some form or other) later in the term, and will be able to function in newly formed Year 6 bubbles. Meanwhile, we continue to work on alternative ways of celebrating our class. Whilst we will clearly not be able to gather as a community before the end of term – we are devising some 'new traditions' to celebrate with our oldest pupils.

Like every other decision in school organisation these days, we cannot confirm plans for too far ahead as so much changes weekly. But, as we have further information and more concrete plans, we will share these with Year 6 parents.

**Stay safe. Stay in touch. Stay positive!**

*R. E. McLoughlin*  
Executive Headteacher

*J. Courtney*  
Headteacher Designate

*Mrs. M. Ellis*  
Chair of Governors





## APPENDIX 1 DAILY ROUTINES FOR CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

### DROP OFF AND PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

- At present, all children returning to school will start at 9am and finish at 3pm. This may change as the number of pupils continue to increase.
- Parents are asked to adhere to the social distancing 2m markers and signage in the school grounds.
- Only one adult per family is permitted onto school grounds to minimise traffic and footfall.
- When picking up children, parents are asked to stand in the socially distanced queue - the teacher will bring your child forward to the gate to meet you.

***Thanks to all who are adhering to the new system and making it work smoothly so far!***

### COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

- Parents are discouraged from conversations with staff at the gate as this interferes with the social distancing routines.
- Parents can of course, phone the school, or email [admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk) if you have any queries or would like a member of staff to get back to you.
- Mrs. Courtney, Miss McLoughlin or a member of the office team may be 'loitering' at the start and end of the day - you can obviously approach any member of staff who is not directly supervising children.

### OTHER

- All children attending school will be **provided** with a picnic lunch to prevent cross contamination. Children will need to bring in a water bottle daily.
- Children should wear their PE kit (white T-shirt, black or navy shorts, daps or trainers - no open toed sandals). Public Health advice recommends that children wear clean clothes daily, as far as possible.
- With this very warm weather, children should bring in a sun hat for breaktimes. Please apply suncream in the morning. Whilst staff are not permitted to apply cream during the day, we will certainly supervise your children topping up their cream if you wish to send it in to school - labelled please!
- If your child has sensitive skin, you may wish to send in hand lotion which we can encourage your child to use - label please!





## APPENDIX 2

Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection GOV.UK

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19

### What do we mean by possible or confirmed coronavirus infection (COVID-19)?

- Possible infection is where a person has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and is currently awaiting a test result.
- Confirmed infection is where a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

### Main messages

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, OR you have received a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test result, the clear medical advice is to immediately self-isolate at home for at least 7 days from when your symptoms started. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19

Consider alerting the people that you have had close contact within the last 48 hours to let them know you have symptoms of coronavirus COVID-19.

Following a positive test result, you will receive a request by text, email or phone to log into the NHS Test and Trace service website and provide information about recent close contacts

After 7 days, or longer, if you still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste, you must continue to self-isolate until you feel better.

You do not need to self-isolate if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste after 7 days, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), then you must stay at home for at least 7 days. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill.

Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection that people in your household could pass on to others in the community.

If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they must stay at home for at least 7 days from when their symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.

If you have symptoms, you should stay as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important to stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you continue to share a household.

Reduce the spread of infection in your home by washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, and cover coughs and sneezes.

If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](#) coronavirus (COVID-19) service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

If you develop new coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms at any point after ending your first period of isolation (self or household) then you must follow the same guidance on self-isolation again. The section below (After ending self-isolation and/or household-isolation) has further information.

