

30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are keeping safe and well. The new school year starts on **Wednesday 2 September 2020** for the children, however the office will be open from Tuesday 1 September 2020 if you have any enquiries.

### **ATTENDANCE**

School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply. However, we do appreciate that some of you may be concerned about your child returning to school in September, especially if your child has not attended school since lockdown or if they have any specific health care needs. We appreciate your worries and doubts, but we hope that you will be reassured by knowing that we have put in place so many safety measures during this period and we have been able to offer all of our children on roll the chance to spend some time in school and welcome back more children than the DfE had anticipated. Please discuss any concerns you may have with us before September, and we will be able to help alleviate any of these for you prior to then. Returning to school is vital for children's education, mental health and wellbeing. The Department for Education states that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus is low and that there are negative health impacts of being out of school. Essential measures contained within our full risk assessment (drawn up in collaboration with the Local Governing Body, which has been checked and certified by the JTMAT Trust Board) include:

- A requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace process
- Full consideration of how to reduce contact and maximise distancing between those in school where possible in order to minimise the risk of transmission as far as is reasonably practicable.

### **BUBBLES**

Children will be taught in their own classes as normal and each class will become its own bubble. This means that contact between the classes will be kept to a minimum to reduce the risk of transmission. We will also limit the number of contacts that the children have with adults, keeping the same staff within that bubble where possible. Adaptations will be made to the classrooms over the summer to support distancing where possible, which includes seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on.

### **START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

In line with social distancing measures, the school day will continue to be staggered for all pupils. This is to minimise the contact with other households and to avoid large groups congregating at the school gates. We ask that these timings are strictly adhered to and children are dropped off and collected by only *one* parent. Unfortunately, as has been the case since June, we have to limit the number of visitors on site, so we will not be able to allow parents in beyond the gate. A member of staff will be present at both gates at the beginning and end of the day to greet and dismiss the children,



pointing them in the right direction where necessary. Please could we ask that you arrive promptly at the designated times below, using the one-way system as indicated to enter and exit:

### START

**8.45am – 8.55am: Children with surnames A – L** (for siblings, key stage 2 pupils to be dropped off at the junior gate first, then key stage 1 at the infant gate)

**8.55am – 9.05am: Children with surnames M – Z** (for siblings, key stage 2 pupils to be dropped off at the junior gate first, then key stage 1 at the infant gate)

### FINISH

**3.20pm: Children with surnames A – L** (for siblings, key stage 1 pupils to be picked up at the infant gate first, then key stage 2 at the junior gate)

**3.30pm: Children with surnames M – Z** (for siblings, key stage 1 pupils to be picked up at the infant gate first, then key stage 2 at the junior gate)

*N.B: Parents of Nursery and Reception children have already received information about their start and end times for the first two weeks of the autumn term. Please note that your entrance and exit will be via the gate located on the school car park. This will be cordoned off so that you can arrive and depart safely.*

### **SHOBNALL STARS – BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

Breakfast Club will resume from 7:30am on Wednesday 2 September and After School Club from 3.30pm – 6.00pm on the same day. Prices (to be paid via ParentPay) and further information can be found via the leaflet on the 'COVID-19 Info' page on our school website. As we need to ensure that the children eat and undertake activities in an area with children from their class bubble, **we must ask that sessions are booked a week in advance** so that this can be catered for in line with our protective measures. We will not be able to offer ad hoc sessions until further notice. Bookings can now be taken for the first week back via email: [shb-wraparound@shb.itmat.co.uk](mailto:shb-wraparound@shb.itmat.co.uk). Many thanks for your support with this.

### **LUNCH**

Hot meals will be available again from September, an up to date menu will be uploaded onto the school website imminently. The children in Reception to Year 6 will continue to have three options - a meat/vegetarian dinner, a jacket potato or school sandwich bag. Alternatively, they can bring in sandwiches from home. Lunch boxes are permitted but must be kept with the children in their bubble and not shared with anyone else. A school meal costs £2.39 (unless in receipt of FSM/UIFSM) and is to be paid via ParentPay. Lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure children eat in their own bubbles. Food will be prepared by our catering team in accordance with government guidelines.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Equipment and resources are integral to education in schools. During the summer term, their use was minimised, many were moved out of classrooms, and there was significant extra cleaning. That position has now changed for the autumn term, because prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased and because they are so important for the delivery of education. All equipment will be provided for the children but Year 6 will need to return to school in September with a well-stocked pencil case, including; sharpener, rubber and an HB pencil. Should you wish to provide pencil



crayons, felt pens and ruler then do please feel free to do so. These items must remain in school at all times in order to prevent sharing and contamination. It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials, such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books and stationery. School bags are allowed. Guidance states that pupils can take reading and library books home. Please be aware that the school will ensure that when each book is returned, these will be placed on a rota system to ensure that they do not transfer in to a new home within 72 hours. However, good practice would expect that any book read, hands should be sanitised before and after reading.

### **CURRICULUM**

We will continue to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, but we will be making use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content. As a school, we have already begun to prioritise elements of our curriculum and the subjects that contain the most important components required for progression. We will of course be keeping parents up to date with their child's progress and ensuring that 'catch up' funding provided by the government is utilised in the best way for our pupils.

We intend to continue to deliver high quality physical education, sport and physical activity, which will be in accordance with our safety measures. Pupils will be kept in their bubbles but only half will participate in a lesson at any one time because of the way in which people breathe during exercise. Sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, and contact sports will be avoided. Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. External facilities can also be used in line with government guidance for the use of, and travel to and from, those facilities. Therefore, the school is currently investigating swimming for year 5 next academic year but we don't anticipate that this will begin until January 2021.

### **SOCIAL GATHERINGS**

We will not be able to have large gatherings in school, therefore parents evenings, Christmas performances etc. will be very different to normal. We intend to keep our calendar commitments and the dates we have set for these will be with you in due course, but please bear with us as we will have to be very creative with how these will look in line with the protective measures we have to adhere to!

### **UNIFORM**

Children will be expected to wear **full school uniform** from September. The government guidance now states that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. Pupils should wear: black/grey trousers or skirt, white shirt with collar, school tie, royal blue jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan (with or without school logo), smart, dark shoes (no trainers). Pupils should also have a PE kit, including: black shorts, white t-shirt, black pumps (for indoor sports) and a tracksuit, sweatshirt, hoody and trainers (for outdoor sports).



## **HANDWASHING**

It is essential that children and parents wash their hands thoroughly before arriving and leaving school. The children will wash their hands once they arrive and leave the classroom and regularly and thoroughly throughout the day. Additional handwashing facilities have been set up in each classroom. It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides. Children are very welcome to bring their own personal small bottle of anti-bac gel although we do have plenty of hand sanitiser in all classrooms.

## **ILLNESS**

If your child or anyone else in the same household becomes unwell, you must keep your child at home and seek advice from [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#). Please inform us if any child or family member becomes unwell and adhere to the guidelines for self-isolation.

If your child becomes unwell whilst in school, you will be asked to collect your child as soon as possible. School has a designated, well-ventilated medical room and the nominated staff will look after your child until you arrive. Again, if a child is displaying symptoms, we ask that you seek medical advice. In line with statutory guidelines, PPE will be worn when dealing with children with suspected symptoms or for first aid requirements.

## **REMOTE LEARNING**

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we will revert to our remote learning that has been in place since the beginning of the lockdown. We will ensure the 'COVID-19 Info' page on the school website remains 'live' so that we can provide you with access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos that are linked to the school's curriculum expectations. We will also keep the class emails in place which will enable the teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding. It is important to be aware that in the event of a local outbreak, the local authority may advise the school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission. It is highly probable that as a result of such guidance, we will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, and providing remote education for all other pupils.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

You may find it useful to read the following government guidance, which has been used for our planning and risk assessment:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

We would like to thank you once again for all of the work that you have been doing with your children and for all of the lovely messages of support and encouragement that you have given to all of the team at Shobnall Primary School.

We look forward to seeing you in September! In the meantime, stay safe!

Many thanks and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D L Adams'.

Mr D. Adams  
Head Teacher