

# Telford Junior School

Telford Avenue Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV32 7HP



HEAD TEACHER  
RICHARD SIVITER BSC. (HONS)

TEL: 01926 424664  
EMAIL: [admin2315@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2315@welearn365.com)

## SCHOOL UPDATE

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Information for Year 2 Families

I have asked the Infant School to kindly share this newsletter with Year 2 families, mindful that it is that time of year when you will be starting to think about applications for places at the Junior School for September 2021.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we are not able to host our open mornings for Year 2 children and parents/carers. I hope that the situation will improve in the New Year and we will be in a position to run our 'Introduction to the Junior School' evening during the Summer Term.

Since the full reopening of the school this September, I am pleased to be able to say that the children have settled back in very well. Teaching staff have spent the first few weeks focusing on re-establishing routines and relationships and giving the children time to reflect on their experiences during the period of schools' closure. Therefore, we have set time aside for transition and PSHE activities, as well as concentrating on recapping previous learning and identifying gaps to inform future teaching. Year 2 families might like to follow our School Updates, which can be viewed on the school website under 'Letters':

<https://www.telfordjuniorschool.com/topic/letters>

These will give you a flavour of how the school is operating under prevailing Department for Education guidelines. They will also give you an idea of the activities and events being shared across the school as we go forward.

The School Prospectus and Parent Guide can also be found on the school website. You will find this helpful in explaining the school's aims, the structure of the school day, uniform expectations and other key information about life in Telford Junior School:

<https://www.telfordjuniorschool.com/prospectus-and-parents-guide/>



I have also added a Year 2 page to the website, which will be updated during the year to provide further information:

<https://www.telfordjuniorschool.com/welcome-to-year-3-information-for-year-2-children-/>

We look forward to being able to welcome you in school in the not too distant future.

## **Crossing Patrol**

It has been great to see Gladys, our school crossing patrol officer, back in operation on Telford Avenue. Children and families are appreciative of being escorted across the road and Gladys' presence does remind road users of the importance of slowing down and being particularly careful around school entrances.

## **Miss Herbert**

Sadly, this week Miss Herbert, was taken unwell in school and is currently recovering in hospital. We wish Miss Herbert a swift recovery and hope to see her soon.

## **End of School Day Arrangements**

Please could I ask families to check that children are clear about their end of school day collection arrangements. Occasionally, uncertainty can lead to confusion and upset. I appreciate that from time to time things crop up, which make it necessary to change those arrangements during the course of the day. Please inform the school office if there are changes during the day, so that we can inform your child and make sure the class teacher is aware of the change of plan.

## **Schools COVID Risk Assessment**

The risk assessment school leaders worked on over the Summer to enable the school to fully reopen in September is to be reviewed at the end of each half-term. In view of the rising number of COVID cases nationally, it is unlikely that current measures will be relaxed leading up to Christmas. Since the start of the term, the Government message has been re- focused on:

### **HANDS – FACE – SPACE**

The school's current risk assessment is in line with this Government guidance.

## **Hand Washing**

Washing hands with soap and running water has been recommended as the best way to protect against the virus since March, promoted both by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Government. There are difficulties around large numbers of children undertaking this routine several times during the day. We have changed to using hand sanitiser at certain times during the day, maintaining the more thorough hand washing as children come into school and before they eat. A couple of families have raised concerns about hands becoming sore and would hand sanitiser be a better solution. While using hand sanitiser certainly speeds up the process, I am not sure that it is any kinder on the hands (the WHO advise that effective hand sanitisers have to be of



a high alcohol content, which can cause a drying effect on the skin). If your child is struggling with sore hands, please email your class teacher and you could arrange for them to bring in a moisturiser, which could be kept securely by the teacher (please remember that non-prescribed medication should not ordinarily be brought into school).

### Face Coverings

I should like to thank parents/carers for following the Local Authority advice sent out last week regarding the wearing of face coverings. I know it is not easy to always remember. I often get caught out at the end of the day, heading into the playground to see the children home, only to be called back and be reminded to put on my mask!

### Social Distancing

Maintaining meaningful social distancing was always going to be the most challenging preventative measure to achieve in a primary school setting. I think it is important to remember the Government's early advice on reopening of schools, that it is not 'all or nothing'; if measures cannot be fully implemented, putting in place the best possible arrangement serves to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus. With this in mind, the school has endeavoured to maintain distinct social groups or 'bubbles', based around class groups. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other. It makes it quicker and easier to manage the situation in the event of a positive COVID case. It reduces the impact on the school population, by requiring only the relevant social group to self-isolate. It is in everyone's interest that the school continues to maintain these distinct social groups.

**Staggered starts and ends to the school day** are an important factor in the school achieving this aim. Thank you for supporting us with this arrangement. I realise it is not always easy, but it does make a big difference to avoiding congestion in the morning. Once the children are in school, the hand washing and movement around corridor areas takes a little while for each class, so it is important to have gaps between each class entering.

Similarly, **eating lunches in the classrooms** maintains the class 'bubbles'. Educaterers are developing their hot menu, offering jacket potatoes as well as more varied options for the hot deli bags. Feeding 340 children in a school hall (without a dedicated canteen area) has always proved challenging and I would have to say that children's behaviour and the way in which they eat their food is improved by having their lunch in smaller class groups. The children also seem to be enjoying the hot deli bags.

The Department for Education stresses the importance of ensuring that **adults do not gather unnecessarily around school entrances**, but drop off and collect and then move from the school site as soon as is reasonably possible. Thank you for your continued help in making sure that our school complies with this guidance.

We are **restricting the number of adult visitors** on site to the minimum. Therefore, the only external professionals operating in school are those supporting children's wellbeing (e.g. specialist teachers, the educational psychologist, the school counsellor and health professionals).



Thank you for your understanding around parents/carers not entering the school building. As a staff, we recognise this can make communications difficult. During lockdown we introduced the option of parents/carers emailing teachers directly with any questions or concerns and this does seem to be working. Teachers will respond to emails as soon as they have the opportunity to do so. Because teachers are teaching during the day and on occasions will have particularly heavy demands on their time, please be patient if there is a delay in them replying. Remember, if you need to let the school know something more immediately, a telephone call to the school office is the best line of communication.

All of these measures are helping to keep our school as safe as we possibly can and helping to ensure that classes remain open, minimising the disruption to the children's education.

## Padlet Links

As a reminder, please refer to the year group Padlet links (below) for information about your child's learning in school and for guidance on home learning. These links will be updated weekly, so please check them regularly.

Year 3: <https://padlet.com/suzishields/v81qi8yj7q3zljgq>

Year 4: <https://padlet.com/powells16/ly2u60ski9phlnoj>

Year 5: <https://padlet.com/thompsonn11/20w5p8p6b3dn6f55>

Year 6: <https://padlet.com/shielll1/dt6i2ten2tyr19x2>

## Half-Term Pupil Report

The teachers are currently working on collating the half-term pupil reports, which we are aiming to send out by GroupCall to families on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. These are being written because COVID restrictions mean that schools are not able to hold their usual parent evening consultations. These short reports will give an early indication of how your child has settled back into the routines of school life and their attitude to learning so far. Later in the term, we will provide a further update, focusing on your child's academic progress. We feel this is the most manageable way for teachers to share information with families in these challenging times. We will endeavour to have face-to-face meetings as soon as it is possible to do so, accepting that is likely to be quite a bit later in the school year. On a positive note, we have to remember that we have moved on a long way since July. The children are back in school, enjoying a full-time education, and emails or telephone conversations are available should issues arise.

If you have any questions or concerns that you wish to raise with your child's class teacher, they are happy to receive emails sent directly to them and they will endeavour to respond to these as soon as they have the opportunity to do so. Teachers' email addresses can be found on the year group home learning Padlet pages.

Best wishes for the weekend,

Richard Siviter

