



Telford Infant School

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Dear Parents and Carers of current Reception and Year 1 children,

FULL SCHOOL REOPENING OF TELFORD INFANT SCHOOL– SEPTEMBER 2020

As promised on last week's Newsletter and following the government's announcement that 'all pupils in all year groups will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term' we are writing to confirm arrangements for the return to school in September. A new Risk Assessment has been completed to reflect the new regulations in order to ensure that a system of controls is in place to maximise safety for children, staff and the wider school community. Based on the Risk Assessment plans have now been finalised and were approved by the Full Governing Board yesterday evening.

Please note that the new arrangements are subject to change should the government make any announcements regarding education over the summer break. As we have come to learn a lot can happen over the period of 6 weeks! Should there be any major changes we shall contact parents by email prior to the start of the school term with the school's revised plans giving as much notice as we possibly can.

The following provides an overview of key points and arrangements for September:

Organisation of Classes

- While the children will be mainly taught in their own class by their new Teacher and Teaching Assistant they will be organised into Year Group 'bubbles' of a maximum of 90 children. Bubbles of children can mix with each other during learning and playtimes but not with other children throughout the school.
- There have been a number of factors that have led to the decision of year group rather than class bubbles and this decision has been endorsed by the Local Authority.
- Each year group bubble has been allocated toilets, washbasins, times to access outdoor areas etc.
- Children will not be required to socially distance from other children in their bubble.
- Staff will continue to socially distance from one another.
- Staff will socially distance from children where possible but we understand that this is not always feasible and will not make children feel awkward about this.

School Attendance

- The government are clear that from September usual attendance rules will apply and all children are expected to return to school.
- Parents who may be reluctant or anxious about their child returning should contact school to discuss their concerns.

- Should a child have a medical need that would prevent them from returning in September parents should contact the school as soon as possible.

Drop off and Collection

- One of the greatest challenges for our school community is the sheer number of families accessing the school site at the start and end of each school day. The school will trial the following arrangements which will be regularly reviewed and adapted if necessary.

*There will be a one way system around school in a clockwise direction. At both drop off and collection ALL families must enter through the pedestrian gateway, walk through the front playground, past the Reception outdoor classroom, around the back of the school and then down the side of the school next to Juniors and exit through the Year 3 and 4 Junior School gates.

*There will be arrows will marking this out and staff will be on hand whenever possible to support a steady flow of families on site.

*The school day will be staggered as follows:

CLASS	DROP OFF TIME	COLLECTION TIME
Sunshine Indigo	8.45am-8.55am	3.05pm-3.15pm
Primrose Sapphire	8.55am-9.05am	3.15pm-3.25pm
Amber Turquoise	9.05am-9.15am	3.25pm-3.35pm

Families with 2 children attending Telford Infants are asked to drop off and collect their child at the earlier time provided. New Reception parents will be informed of their child's class times separately.

- In order to keep the number of people on the school site to a minimum we ask that only one adult accompany each child – this one adult may vary from day to day.
- We really need parents to support the school in this and for the safety of other families we ask that you to keep to the timings, the one way system and leave the school site as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child.
- The school has raised the concerns a small number of parents have shared with us about the alleyway running alongside the Junior School with the local council who have advised that parents should make their own decisions about using this to access the two schools.

Teaching and Learning

- Despite the staggered timings of the school day full teaching time will be provided.
- Whilst there will be a need for 'catch up' we shall continue to provide a broad and exciting curriculum. Wellbeing will be at the heart of our curriculum. However, parents need to be made aware that under the current guidance we very sadly cannot provide the following for the children:
Food technology – cooking or tasting foods
Singing

Recorders

Contact sports

- The school will not take part in any educational trips or local visits during the Autumn term.
- Children can now bring in **essential** items to school – Book bags, reading books, coats, water bottle, PE kit and lunchbox. We will not be able to do 'show and tell' sessions.
- Pencil cases should not be brought in, teachers will have a system in place for ensuring school resources are cleaned.
- Children should wear normal school uniform – the guidance is now that clothes do not need to be washed any more frequently than they would do normally to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- PE will be outside for at least the first half term so please ensure that your child has PE kit (outdoor kit when the weather turns colder) and trainers – this will not apply to our new Reception children.
- We will not be able to invite parents to come into school for celebrations of learning etc but are planning online Learning Reviews with parents half way through the Autumn term.
- Christmas plans will be reviewed in October!
- Schools must have a plan in place for remote learning and for providing onsite education for key worker and vulnerable children by the end of September. Further information about this will follow in the Autumn term.
- Outdoor equipment on the back playground will remain closed - the climbing wall, trim trail. On the front playground the pirate ship will be open for Reception to use but will have to be closed again if parents allow siblings to play on it out of school hours.

Food

- Lunches will be provided by Educators and for at least the first half term will be a choice of hot or cold deli bag eaten in the classroom.
- We are waiting to hear whether the government's free fruit scheme will resume in the Autumn term.
- Cool Milk will operate as normal. Parents wishing to use this service must contact the dairy direct.

Access to the school building

- Visitors will not be permitted to enter the school building (including classrooms) without a prior appointment and will need to follow the school's Health and Safety measures.
- Parents are asked to contact the school by email with any queries for teachers in the first instance – your child's class teacher will respond by email or phone. The school office is manned between 9am and 4pm for any general phone queries or messages.
- Volunteers will not be invited back into school yet.
- However, external SEND practitioners eg. school counsellor, Educational Psychologist are permitted to work in schools.
- Wherever possible we will cover staff absences internally. Where this is not possible we will endeavour to use our own small pool of regular supply teachers.

Clubs

- SMILES Club will be partially reopening and Mrs Berry is in contacting parents of children who attend the club.
- Other after school clubs will not be held for at least the first half term.

Health and Safety

- The enhanced cleaning procedures that were introduced at the time of partial school opening will continue. This includes additional cleaning hours and deep cleaning at various points in the week.
- The guidance is clear that staff and children do not need to wear Personal Protective Equipment in school. Staff will however wear this when providing intimate care for a child or are administering first aid. If you wish your child to wear a face covering when travelling to and from school please remove it and take it home with you at the start of the day and put a fresh one on your child when they have been handed over to you by their teacher. Current government guidance does not require children under the age of 11 to wear a face covering.
- Children will wash their hands frequently throughout the day. At the start of the day this may need to be by hand sanitiser rather than soap and water – please inform your child’s class teacher if they cannot use hand sanitiser so that they can wash their hands with soap and water instead. Please do **not** send in hand sanitiser for your child.

What happens if a child/adult displays symptoms of COVID-19

- The school will follow the government’s latest guidelines: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- If a child or member of staff develops symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell) they will be expected to have a COVID-19 test and must not attend school.
- If they receive a negative result for COVID-19 they can return to school.
- If they receive a positive result for COVID-19:
 - *They should follow the ‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection’ and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only when symptoms have ended.
 - *Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days.
 - *The school will work with the health protection team to carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. In most cases, this will mean that the whole of their bubble (ie. their year group) will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
 - *If schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where COVID-19 is suspected, this will be classed as an outbreak. In the case of an outbreak, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – this may be the whole school.

Our aim is to make the reopening of school as smooth and as happy as possible for all our school community, despite the stringent controls that we are having to establish. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the school and wish you all a safe and healthy summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Siân Oustayiannis
Headteacher

Mrs Sarah Boad
Chair of Governors
(Email: Boad.s1@welearn365.com)

