



William Shrewsbury Primary School

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A member of the Central Co-operative Learning Trust



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Dear Parents,

I hope that you are well and that you have had a good summer. At school, we are all really looking forward to seeing the children and getting back into our learning. We have been busy organising things so that we can all be happy and stay safe while we learn.

Of course, in a school the size of ours, that means that we have to make many changes to our organisation and management in line with government guidance. Before we broke up in July, I sent out a letter to outline the start and end times for the different year groups and the exits and entrances that parents should use. We are resending that letter with this one so that you can refer to it ready for next week. Just to add to this:

- Year 4 parents should enter the school through the vehicle entrance gate, which will be closed, to vehicles at this time. They should then leave via the vehicle exit gate.
- The back gate to the school must only be used as an exit gate - no one should enter school from that direction.

Of course, our arrangements will have implications for parents who have more than one child in school, as it is impossible to be in two places at once! It is also difficult for child minders who are bringing more than one child to school. For this reason, you will know that in the first week, **children will only attend for one day**. We hope that smaller numbers of people will mean that we can be on hand to help you iron out the procedural glitches.

Just to remind you that *Group A* children will attend on Wednesday 2nd September, *Group B* on Thursday 3rd and *Group C* on Friday 4th. You were sent a text at the end of last term to let you know which group your child is in. Brothers and sisters should be in the same group so that those parents only have to bring the children in on one day. If you are unsure about which group your child is in, please email us on office2@williamshrewsbury.staffs.sch.uk and we will let you know.

I would now like to go through some of the common questions that we have had from parents and share the answers with you:

Q: How will school be keeping my child safe?

A: You may have seen on the news that a wide range of measures are being put in place in schools according to Government guidelines. Along with this newsletter, I will be sending out a Government leaflet. I will also be making the [school's risk assessment](#) available on the school website. You may not want to read all 17 pages of it but it is there for your reference. It is based on the Staffordshire County Council risk assessment and the school has then added in its local arrangements. This has been ratified by the School Governors and the

Central Co-operative Trust Trustees. The Risk Assessment covers a wide range of arrangements around hygiene, social distancing and what the procedures are should a person fall ill with Covid-19.

Q: What will happen if someone displays Covid-19 symptoms?

A: If a child shows signs of the virus, parents should notify the school and arrange for a test to be carried out. School will text the parents of all of that child's bubble to let them know that someone is displaying symptoms and that we will let them know once we get the outcome of the test. This will be the same procedure if an adult in the bubble has symptoms. If the test is positive, the bubble will be sent home to self-isolate. Work will be provided for children to do at home. This is likely to be online learning but parents must let school know if their child cannot access a device to do this so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Please do not send your child into school:

- **If they are displaying any symptoms.**
- **If you and your family are in quarantine whether it be due to a return from holiday or because you have been in contact with others who have tested positive.**
- **If any members of your household have tested positive for Covid-19.**

Q: Should my child wear a mask?

A: Children are not required to wear face coverings and we would prefer them not to. If older children want to do so to alleviate anxiety, they may bring in a plain mask in a muted colour in line with school uniform (preferably black, white, blue or grey). They will also need a plastic, sealable, named bag to keep it in should they choose to remove it. Parents should help them to practise putting these on and taking them off correctly before they bring them in. Children should wash or sanitise their hands before and after they put on and remove a mask. They should understand that they should still maintain social distancing when they are wearing one. Teachers will not insist on children wearing masks should they choose to take them off. Children in Reception and Nursery should not wear masks, as they will be unable to manage this for themselves.

Q: Will there be breakfast club and after school clubs?

A: Initially, we will be having neither before nor after school clubs. This is for a number of reasons. Firstly, we are being asked to keep children in 'bubbles' during school time to reduce the number of contacts that your child has. A bubble will, in effect, be your child's class. Your child will be in the same classroom all of the time or outside in their own playing zone with the bubble's equipment. We are keeping the bubbles small because if one person in a bubble tests positive for Covid-19, everyone in that bubble will need to self-isolate. Without changes to our practice, breakfast club or after school club would then become another bubble and we might be instructed to send all of the children who attend home. Another reason is because there are already lots of new procedures for everyone to get to grips with. Once we feel confident with our entry, exit and lunchtime procedures, we will try to work out if there is any way that we can create groups within clubs, or spread the children out more. This may involve increasing staff levels, which might have a knock on impact on costs.

Q: Can my child still go to their childminder before and after school?

A: Yes. I have already spoken with some childminders to discuss arrangements with them. If your child goes to a childminder who brings or collects a number of children to school, please

encourage them to contact the school to let us know how many children they have in which year groups so that we can make arrangements with them.

Q: What are the arrangements for lunchtimes?

A: There is a complex plan in place to ensure that children eat in their bubbles either in a hall or in their classrooms. Tables and chairs will be sanitised between sittings. Children will not be sitting face to face. We will be in a better position to give you more details about this once the kitchen staff return next week. Dinners will be boxed and given to the children rather than the children going to the hatch to choose. This means that children will need to choose from the menu in advance. In the first week, when we have fewer pupils, they will be able to choose their meals in the mornings for that day. However, we may need to further develop our systems once everyone has returned. We will give you more information about this next week.

Fruit is usually provided by the Government for the Reception and KS1 children to eat at break time. We have just been informed that this will not be delivered until the second week of term. Please provide your child with one item of fresh fruit when they come in for their first day next week as it will be quite some time to lunch for some children. Please do not send in packets of dried fruit.

Q: Will there still be a Walking Bus?

A: It is vital that as many children and parents as possible walk or cycle to school to try to alleviate the traffic problems that we have, especially as children will not be coming earlier and leaving later from clubs. The Walking Bus plays a central role in this and helps parents who need to go to work. However, this initiative relies on parent volunteers to help one another and before Covid-19, we had to shut down some routes due to a lack of volunteers. We would like to get this up and running again as soon as possible. If you can offer to walk with the children or if you would like your child to use the Walking Bus, please email Mrs Cullen at walkingbus@williamshrewsbury.staffs.sch.uk. Please do this, even if your child has always walked on the bus in the past so that we can get some idea of demand and support. Please also use this address if you just want to find out more about the initiative.

Q: Will there be swimming lessons?

A: There are no plans to go swimming until after Christmas. The school is working with the other schools in the Trust to determine a way forward and we will let you know once firm plans have been made.

Q: What about PE?

A: Although we will not be playing contact sports in PE, we will be focusing very much on improving the children's levels of fitness as some of them found this difficult during lockdown. PE lessons will be outdoors so children will need to have their outdoor kit and keep it in school. They are likely to go out as long as the weather does not make it unsafe to do so. Reception and Nursery children will not need an outdoor kit as they will be taking part in PE in their school clothes.

Q: Should my child bring their own stationery to school?

A: Initially, children should not bring in any stationery. Teachers will provide them with their own pack which they will keep on their desks. If this advice changes, we will let parents know.

That's all of the questions and answers for now. However, don't hesitate to ask if you have any worries. Please do not come in person to the school office but email class emails or office2@williamshrewsbury.staffs.sch.uk and your queries will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff. Please bear with us while we work to put our plans into practice. We will review things at the end of next week and let you know if we need to make any changes. Please be assured that we are all doing our best to help, but we might not get everything right the first time.

I hope that you all enjoy the last few days of the holidays and we all look forward to seeing you next week.

Elaine Curtis

Headteacher