

William Shrewsbury Primary School

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@WilliamShrews



Dear Parents,

This week we have said goodbye to all our Year 6 pupils as they move to their new schools. They have been a wonderful group who have shown resilience and flexibility in these difficult times. We are pleased that we have been able to see many of them for a few weeks before they left us. We will really miss them but wish them every success for the future.

We will also be saying a sad farewell to one of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Hunt, who is retiring after 23 years at the school, most of which have been with the KS2 children. Also leaving today are Mrs Love who has been with us at different times since 2005 and our temporary teachers, Mrs Tomes and Miss Thomas. We are also sad to be losing one member of our office staff, Mrs Morrall who will be taking up a position with the Central Co-operative Learning Trust team. We wish all of them every happiness and success for the future.

We are looking forward to welcoming some new teachers from September. Mr Jon Heald will become the new Assistant Headteacher leading Years 1 and 2 and will be teaching in Year 1. We also look forward to working with Mr Jack O'Sullivan in Year 1 and Mrs Caroline Bell in Year 2. Congratulations to Mrs Elsmore who, as well as being our Inclusion Lead, will be an Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Safeguarding children.

Thank you for all the support you have given to the school throughout this year and all you do to help your children with their learning. We all appreciate how difficult this has been during lockdown.

The rest of this newsletter will be dedicated to explaining how we hope to resume school for everyone in September. Please read it carefully and then put the information somewhere safe for when you need it as it is quite complicated! We are going to need to ask for your flexibility and understanding to make our new arrangements work for everyone as we have over 680 children to get in and out of the building in line with Government guidelines and risk assessments. I may need to send updates and additional information during the holidays, these may come during the first or last week of the holidays. If we all work together, I know that this will be possible.

Finally, best wishes for a happy and restful holiday with your children and I hope you enjoy a lovely, relaxing break.

Elaine Curtis
Headteacher

Back to School

We are all very excited about the prospect of all of our children returning in September so that we can all get on with our learning and growing together!

On return to school, all children will be organised into whole class 'bubbles'. Each bubble will have a teacher and a teaching assistant. Children will only be able to mix with children in their own bubble. This means that there will be no setting for English and Maths for at least the first four weeks. Classes will have their own outdoor zone in which to play away from other bubbles. If one person from that bubble tests positive for Covid-19, their whole bubble, including staff, will have to self-isolate for 14 days. There will be no breakfast club or after school clubs and the beginning and end of the school day will vary according to your child's Year group and bubble.

As you will have seen in the news, the Government has issued very detailed guidelines to schools about what we are and are not able to do. This means that, in order to keep your children and your extended families safe, we will need to do things in different ways to those we are used to.

For the first week, we would like a staggered approach to our return before welcoming everyone back in the second week. Below are tables to explain how this will be organised. There will be a separate letter for children who will be starting in our Nursery.

In the first week, Monday will be a Bank Holiday and the Tuesday will be our safeguarding training day. On the remaining days of that week, we would like children to come in ten at a time for one day each. To do this, the children will be organised into team A, B or C. Siblings will be placed into the same team so that they come into school on the same day. We believe that this will enable the children and parents and pupils to get used to the new and complicated systems for entering and leaving the school without creating very long queues around the school. It will also give us the chance to teach the children about seating arrangements, use of equipment, handwashing rotas, lunchtime arrangements etc, in smaller groups. The school office will have sent you a text to tell you whether your child will be in team A, B, or C. Please contact the office immediately if you have more than one child and they are not in the same group. Otherwise, I am afraid that there is no flexibility to change this as it has been very complicated to work out the groups to ensure that siblings are all in on the same day. Please see the table below which outlines how this will be structured:

Reception

Mrs Pearson will be sending out more detailed information for this year group but here is a brief outline:

Mon 31.08.20	Tues 01.09.20	Wed 02.09.20	Thurs 03.09.20	Fri 04.09.20
Bank Holiday	INSET	Group A	Group B	Group C

Then:

Week commencing	
07.09.20	all children in until 1.30pm
14.09.20	all children in until 1.30pm
21.09.20	all in full time

Years 1-6

Mon 31.08.20	Tues 01.09.20	Wed 02.09.20	Thurs 03.09.20	Fri 04.09.20
Bank Holiday	INSET	Group A in	Group B in	Group C

Monday 7th September onwards - all children in Years 1 to 6 to return to school full time. Please see the next page for start and finish times because these will be different. In the first week, when the children are coming in ten at a time, we ask **all parents**, not just the infants, to come to school with their child to ensure that they understand where to queue and how to social distance. There are yellow spots on the ground to help you maintain the two metre gaps.

Times of the day

From the very first day back on Wednesday 2nd September, we will be working to a very strict timetable to bring the children into school. Because we have so many children, the time margins are very tight and so it is **VITAL** that parents bring children at the **EXACT** times stated below so that year groups do not become mixed up in the queue and slow things down. **Please do not turn up early in the hope of getting in sooner as this will slow everyone down.**

Although this looks very complicated because of the one way systems, they are similar to the organisation that we have been using during lockdown and we are confident that after the first three days, it should run smoothly. If not, we will make adjustments and communicate them to you.

In year group order:

Year group	Coming in	Start	Home time
Reception	8.55-9.00 In infant gate, out back gate	9.00	Non-siblings 3.00 With siblings 3.05 In infant gate, out back gate
Year 1	9.00-9.05 In infant gate, out back gate	9.05	3.10 In infant gate, out back gate
Year 2	9.05-9.10 In infant gate, out back gate	9.10	3.20 In infant gate, out back gate
Year 3	8.40-8.45 In infant gate, out back gate	8.45	3.15 In junior gate, out through vehicle exit gate
Year 4	8.40-8.45 In at front door, out through vehicle exit gate	8.45	3.20 Ramp door to vehicle exit gate
Year 5	8.45-8.50 In junior gate, out through vehicle exit gate	8.50	3.25 In junior gate, out through vehicle exit gate. Those with parents first
Year 6	8.40-8.45 In junior gate - pupils only on site please	8.45	3.15 Children leave by vehicle exit gate

Risk Assessment

To ensure that your children and your extended families are safe, we are writing a detailed risk assessment which will be approved by school Governors and the Central Co-operative Trust Trustees during the holidays. We aim to share this with you in the last week of the holidays. It will include information about correct handwashing procedures, social distancing, the organisation of bubbles and information about what to do if a member of your family shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19.

Dressing for success

We are looking forward to seeing the children coming back to school looking smart in their uniforms. If you are buying new clothes in the holidays **please remember to label everything.**

Boys: Grey Trousers or Shorts; Royal Blue Sweatshirt; White Polo Shirt or White Shirt (tucked in)

Girls: Grey Skirt, Trousers or Pinafore; Royal Blue Cardigan or Sweatshirt; White Polo Shirt or White Shirt; Royal Blue & White Check Dress (Summer) Grey or White Socks or Tights

Year 6 school ties should be worn and are available from the office £3.30 each

Children should wear sensible black shoes - with safety being of prime importance - and not trainers or basketball boots.

No jewellery may be worn at any time except wrist-watches and one sleeper or plain stud earring per ear - both of which must be removed for all physical education (Parents to remove earrings for younger children before school). Hair bobbles, slides and headbands should be plain. No nail varnish. **Please do not send your child to school with hair that is coloured, gelled up or with patterns cut into it.** We pride ourselves in looking smart and ready for learning. We are very grateful for your support with this.

Good News! We are going paperless!

What will this mean for parents?

We will no longer be sending any letters in paper format. We are doing this for several reasons.

1. The vast majority of parents are already receiving their information this way.
2. All of our parents have an email address.
3. As a school we want to act responsibly and reduce our impact on the environment.
4. All information sent out will also be on our website. You will often, but not always, receive a text with a link straight to the document.
5. You will not have to rely on your child bringing home important letters.

What if?

1. What if I need to have a paper copy and don't have a printer at home?
Most of the letters sent are for information. If there is a reply slip you can email your reply to us – we don't need the actual slip.
2. My child takes part in a lot of sports activities and these are sent home in paper format?
We will be trying to ensure that **all** information is sent by email. Replies that are for staff members can be forwarded to them so they have the information they need.
3. Will there still be duplicate letters available in the office?
Yes there will – however, we would prefer it if parents emailed to request another copy of a letter if they have lost their email so we can continue to reduce our paper usage. You may have to wait for a letter to be printed at the office.
4. I like having paper letters.
We appreciate that some parents like to have a paper copy of everything, but during the lockdown period we have successfully sent information to parents and want to continue to do this going forward.
5. My IT skills are not very good and I am worried that I may not be able to cope with emails or will miss something.
We also appreciate that a small minority of our parents will have some IT issues. Please contact Bridget Tye, Office Manager, in confidence, on office2@ if you are worried and I will do my best to help you.

All of the office team are here to help you in any way that they can. We are aware that initially there may be some teething problems, but have the confidence that this will be better for our parents and better for the environment.

Parent Helpers

We wanted to say a huge thank you to all the parent helpers and volunteers who have given up their time to help the children in school this year. We are extremely grateful as we couldn't do certain things without your support!

We hope to be in touch with you all very soon to make our plans for September 2020

Take care & stay safe.
Miss Martin & Mrs Kirk