



## St Oswald's CE VA Primary School

St. Oswald's Road, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear NE31 1HT

Telephone: (0191) 483 2844 Fax: (0191) 483 2844

E-Mail : [office@stoswaldscofe.co.uk](mailto:office@stoswaldscofe.co.uk) Web site : [www.stoswaldscofe.co.uk](http://www.stoswaldscofe.co.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs. H. Smith B.Sc. (Hons) NPQH

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, the Government has released guidance regarding our school re-opening on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, for Autumn term. Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their well-being, the Government has stated that given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. As a result, we have planned for all children to return to school in September, whilst making judgements at a school level, about how to balance and minimise any risks from COVID-19, with providing a full educational experience for our children.

This letter is an overview of our current plans; this letter should be read in conjunction with any additional paperwork and guidance provided, including risk assessments.

**Staying safe:** We have developed a plan of how a September return will be implemented, including detailed risk assessments, when completing these, Department for Education and Public Health guidance has been followed. *The key to the guidance is as follows:*

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene, promoting the 'catch it, kill it, bin in' approach and installing additional hand sanitiser stations
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable





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*Contact will be reduced as much as possible by:*

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

**The Bubble:** Our intention is to have year groups sized 'bubbles' with classrooms arranged with forward facing desks - in line with social distancing where possible except for our Reception and Year One pupils. Teachers and teaching assistants will be working with the same group of children, as much as possible - in the same area to reduce the risk of infection. Guidance does state, that teachers and staff can operate across different classes and year groups if this is needed to enable a full educational offer. This means your child will be working in their normal classroom with staff planned to lead their learning for this academic year. This will mean a year group of children will stay in the same 'bubble', entering school together, learning together, playing together (in their own defined area), eating together (in their classroom) and leaving school together, whilst following maintaining social distancing guidance where possible to reduce the risk of infection. We recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them to not be expected to socially distance in their group. Classes will be thoroughly cleaned every day. Please see risk assessments and non-negotiables.

**Attendance:** School attendance will become mandatory again from the beginning of Autumn term. Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, access to remote education will be immediately offered.

**Uniform:** Our normal school uniform policy will resume in Autumn term and all children will be expected to attend wearing their uniform. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. One uniform amendment, linked to PE, has been made and is outlined within a coronavirus update, please read this.





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**Limiting items between school and home:** The children will only be required to bring into school a coat and a full water bottle. Children do not need to bring a school bag into school as letters will be issued via the app and reading books, reading records and homework will not be issued during the first half of Autumn term. This will be reviewed following this. A whole school talk homework will be uploaded to the website weekly.

**Lunchtime:** There will be a continuation of a packed lunch and two hot meals offer for lunchtimes for years reception to year four. The children will be offered a hot meal on a Monday and Wednesday or packed lunches, with a variety of sandwiches, for three days of the week. By offering daily packed lunches to the children we can reduce movement around school, with children being able to either eat these in their designated room or outside. Children in receipt of free school meals will automatically be offered these, including all KS1 and reception children. Those children currently bringing their own packed lunch, can continue, but must be in line with the packed lunch policy and this will be opted into for the full first half term. Years five and six will be offered five hot meals a week, this will be trialled for the first two weeks to determine if it feasible to roll out to additional year groups.

**Intimate Care and Medical Appointments:** If any child soils themselves during the school day, staff will do their best to support this from a safe distance, it may be that the child's parent is contacted and the parent will be asked to collect the child if there are problems. The child will be permitted to return to school that day however this will have to be carefully managed to ensure that this does not clash with bubble dismissals. As much as possible, we would discourage medical appointments during the school day, if there is a need then careful discussions around drop off and pick up times will need to be had, to ensure that there are no issues for other bubbles.

**Medication:** All medical and asthma forms have been uploaded to the school app, these must be completed if inhalers or medication are due to be returned to school with your child. Please can we ask that you email Andrea Scott at [ascott@stoswaldscofe.co.uk](mailto:ascott@stoswaldscofe.co.uk) to inform if your child will be returning to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, with some form of medication or inhaler. As much as possible, we do ask that the medication sent into school can remain in school, to avoid the need for this going back and forth. If your child





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currently has a care plan then Andrea Scott will be in touch in September to discuss updates.

**Entering and leaving school safely:** Start and end times for the day have been revised to allow for the safe arrival and departure of the children to and from the school site, as per Government recommendations. The school day will run from 8:30am - 3:15pm with designated time slots for different groups. We will also have a designated gate for entry to the site and one for leaving the site, along with demarcated lining up stations to keep a two-metre distance and enable the flow of people, thus reducing the risk of infection. Parents/Carers will not be permitted onto the school site at all during this time and SHOULD NOT attempt to speak to staff on entry or leaving the school as this will cause congestion at the school gates. If any parent has any questions regarding their child's day in school please can they email the bubble member of staff.

We would encourage children to walk or cycle to school however if this isn't possible please can we ask that parents and children stay in their car until the member of staff opens the gate for their bubble?

**Punctuality:** Punctuality is essential in order to ensure everyone is safe. A timetable of allotted timings and gates is attached. If a child is late and the bubble have already entered the school building the child will not be allowed entry to school that day and will not be able to return until the following day.

**Worship:** Schools are being advised to avoid large gatherings, such as assemblies or collective worship, with more than one group. As such, worship will take place within class and there will be no Praise and Celebration Worship on a Friday until we are advised otherwise. Similarly, festivals and church services will not take place and will be acknowledged within school.

Kind regards,





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Helen Smith

Headteacher

