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Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

We are so looking forward to welcoming you all to school – whether for the first time, or back after what seems a very long time!

The latest Government Guidance for schools was published yesterday and can be found at: [Guidance for Full Opening of Schools](#). This works in conjunction with the document for families [What Parents and Carers need to know for the Autumn Term](#).

We have been open throughout lockdown and so were already well used to working with the guidance as it has developed. This means the day to day arrangements will be very much in line with what was described to you in our July Newsletter with some additional detail that will enable us to open safely to all children of all year groups.

### **New Reception Children & Families – Start Dates**

Welcome – at last – to South End Infant School! Thank you for coming on some very rainy days in July to meet the teachers. The arrangements for starting are as follows:

Starting days are: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September – your child will either come from 9am – 11am **OR** 1 p m – 3.10pm. Details of your child's first session was in their pack.

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September the sessions are slightly different: 9 -11.30am **OR** 1 – 3.10pm as they will stay for a packed lunch please either provide one from home (no nuts / fizzy drinks) or order one from Kingswood by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> as they always have to be ordered the Wednesday before the week they are required.

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September all Reception children will be full time.

You will come to the Reception classes via the first gate on your left, past Year 2. The first Reception Class is Fir, followed by Rowan then round the corner is Willow – there are signs outside each class.

***Please be aware that whilst the children are part-time there may be slight delays as we clear playgrounds for safe entry / exit from the grounds for you.***

Please look at our website for updates specific to Reception: [South End Infants - New Intake](#) and continue to read this for whole school arrangements regarding COVID19.

### **Welcome Back Years 1 & 2!**

We have missed you greatly and are ready to welcome you ALL back to your new classes. Timings are as follows:

**Reception (when full-time):** 9 - 3.10 – entry / exit by first gate on left

**Year 1:** 8.50 – 3 – entry / exit by top gate onto upper playground

**Year 2:** 8.40 – 2.40 – entry / exit by first gate nearest the classrooms

We are hoping to avoid using a one way system but in order to help this please be careful to maintain social distances, keep children close to you and away from equipment and keep moving as much as is possible so you spend only a very short time on site.

It is important that you are prompt but please do not arrive earlier than a couple of minutes from any collection or drop off time as we must limit numbers on site. If you have different children in different Year Groups or at the Juniors, please still try to limit your time on the site as best you can and do not gather in groups with other families. Guidance states that *'Gathering at school gates and otherwise coming onto the*

*site without an appointment is not allowed'* so please be aware of social distancing on your way on and off site and use the contact information above to help reduce unnecessary risks to our Office Staff.

### **Daily Arrangements**

Government Guidance states that, particularly with young children, the risk to health is very low and the negatives of being out of school are more significant. With that in mind, the expectation is that all children and staff will return to school although the guidance accepts that *'it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment.'*

In reality, this comes for some people with a significant amount of anxiety and if that is the case with you – please contact us for clarification or reassurance. As we have been open throughout, our changes are already in place and well practised – we just need to implement them on a larger scale.

**Reception:** Classes will be remaining in their own 'Bubbles' with handwashing and cleaning going on throughout the day. The outside areas have been replicated into three zones to maintain an outdoor provision for all. Classes remain in Bubbles throughout the day, Rowan and Fir share a toilet area, Willow has toilets within their classroom. Whilst part-time, resources will be cleaned between morning and afternoon sessions until the 'Bubble' is all together from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September at which point they are kept in that Bubble but still cleaned frequently during the week. Hand wash stations are in all classes as well as hand sanitisers and adults will be making their use part of the daily routine.

**Years 1 & 2:** Classrooms are cleared of additional furnishings and desks are forward facing. Hand wash stations are in all classes as well as hand sanitisers and children and adults will be using these frequently throughout the day. Children have their own pencil pots and resources and sit alongside, but not opposite, others. Classes remain in their own Bubbles throughout the day, although must share toilets with the Year Group.

Lunches for all are in classes and, as with playtimes, are staggered to avoid Bubbles mixing. After School clubs are suspended until at least October half term.

### **Whole School**

Children **will need:**

- **School uniform**, all named. Guidance states that *'Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual [or by any different method].'*
- **Book Bag** with no additional keyrings / toys etc. Reading books will be changed at least once weekly and have time untouched in school then cleaned before reallocating to another child. (Reading Diaries are to be discussed with staff still)
- **Named water bottle** – we obviously want to avoid chances of cup sharing and Kingswood do not provide a drink with their lunches
- **Packed lunch** in a named lunchbox (please wipe down each evening at home), or a lunch ordered through Kingswood. These **must be ordered by the Wednesday of the previous week**. There are no spares and if not ordered in time you will have to provide a lunch each day that week. Please remember no nut traces or fizzy drinks. Until we can remove the furniture and resources stored in the Hall back to classes, we have no choice but to continue with packed lunches.
- **Shoes suitable to do outdoor PE** – just make sure school shoes fit well and will withstand some running about!
- **Named, up to date, medicines** – inhalers / epi pens / eczema creams will be kept in classes. Prescribed medications with a four times a day dosage – please contact the office. Unprescribed medications such as cough sweets / lip salves are not allowed to be in children's pockets or book bags.
- **warm school jumper or cardigan** regardless of the weather as windows and doors will be propped open as much as possible throughout the day to increase fresh airflow

Children **do not need:**

- **PPE including face masks / hand sanitisers** – Guidance as of today states that *'Primary School children will not need to wear a face covering [and they will] not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible.'* It is accepted that with our age children social distancing is not possible but

adults are encouraged to maintain a distance where possible from children, but more definitely from other adults. If you choose for your child to wear a face mask outside school, please keep it with you when you drop them off and give it back to them when you return.

- **Toys, pencils, fidget toys, comforters** – we usually try to ignore the little collections that children love to have in their book bags but unfortunately we cannot do that this year!
- **PE Kits** – at present we would like children to not have to change during school time

### **Whole School Routines**

Children will remain in their Class Bubbles and our most important routines will reduce risks:

- People who are ill stay at home and get tested if symptomatic – always call school to give reasons for absence and updates on tests or self isolation times
- Regular handwashing
- Good respiratory practice – ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ – for sneezes, coughs and tissue use
- Enhanced cleaning – cleaning takes place regularly throughout the day particularly on touch surfaces
- Face coverings when recommended which, for infant schools, is in situations where they would have been used prior to COVID e.g changing nappies / intimate care. In some cases, staff may choose to wear a face mask if they feel at increased risk in a particular situation, but this will not be commonplace
- Records kept of who enters any class bubble to aid NHS Test and Trace procedures with which we have to legally comply
- Contact with teachers must be made via email or telephone call to the office – staff are unable to talk at classroom doors as they would ordinarily. Please contact the office and someone able to assist will get back to you within 24 hours.
- Staff are unable to mix and separate mini staff room areas within year groups will be set up to reduce potential for contact
- Resources that have to be shared between Class Bubbles will be either cleaned thoroughly or left for 48 hours (72hrs for plastics) between use
- Contact with anyone of less than a metre will have to be minimised so we are looking at safe ways to hear children read / do interventions and so on

### **Behaviour & Curriculum**

We are very lucky – South End Infant children are very well behaved and we have very supportive families. However, we have not been at school for some time and it could be that due to the necessary changes, anxiety due to separation or just being out of school routine, your child may not behave to the standard required by our normal behaviour policy. Whilst we will, of course, make allowances for settling back in it is vital that children follow the clear and reasonable instructions given by adults in school particularly with regard to hygiene and safety. We will always inform you of any difficulties but would also look to you for support with any sanctions or interventions that need to be implemented in order to help your child settle and learn.

Guidance is clear that schools are to continue to have a ‘broad and ambitious’ curriculum whilst looking to fill gaps in learning. We are very clear that we do not like the term ‘catch up’ as it makes the assumption that all children have fallen behind in everything when this may not be the case. Our intentions are as follows:

- Welcome the children back – support their well being, help them learn to be back in school and able to articulate any worries they (or their family) may have
- Implement a strong element of pastoral care by starting the new statutory RHE (Relationships and Health Education) curriculum alongside other existing strategies
- Use observations, practical activities and questioning to look for any gaps in learning over the first couple of weeks
- Plan the curriculum from those findings with a strong focus on core skills of reading, phonics and Maths fluency whilst maintaining the broader curriculum
- Plan any necessary interventions to accelerate learning for individuals or groups
- Have plans in place for remote learning in case of Bubble closure or local lockdown
- Follow guidance for statutory assessment points and be back on track by Summer 2021

That all sounds very simple but involves a lot of hard work and busy children! Please support your child by hearing them read or reading a book to them – every little bit helps and reading underpins everything.

### **Attendance & Illness Reporting**

It is clear that all pupils are expected back in school, full time and on time. Prior to lockdown we sent out an attendance leaflet and your child's percentage attendance. Please remember the target for attendance is 96%. We will support you in achieving this in any way we can so if you are having difficulties or are anxious, please contact us.

Schools are again legally required to report and follow up on absence and lateness so it is vital that you call us if your child is not in school or if your family is self-isolating, symptomatic or awaiting test results.

Children will not be routinely having their temperatures taken as this has been decided to be unreliable by Public Health England as a measure. However, **if your child or anyone in their household is showing any symptoms do not send your child to school.** Call the school office, get a test done (NHS 911) and engage with the Test and Trace service [NHS Test and Trace](#).

If a child became ill at school and was showing symptoms of COVID19 we would:

- Call the family and ask for the child to go home immediately
- Take the child to a separate room to await for collection with a member of staff known to them (if possible). The staff member would wear PPE and maintain 2m distance if possible
- Child would go home to start 10 day isolation and have a test
- Member of staff need not go home but would if there was an elevated risk due to close contact and would follow testing and isolation procedures
- If the test was positive, members of that Bubble would be informed of the result, not the identity of the child or adult
- Follow local NCC procedures – see below

If a child has a positive test but shows no symptoms they self isolate for 10 days. If they develop symptoms after that, the 10 days re-starts from when first symptoms were shown. Their household isolates for 14 days after first symptom is shown. See the Guidance for household infection at [Possible COVID19 infection](#).

Hopefully, this would be as serious as it would get but we cannot discount the possibility of closures of Bubbles, Year Groups or the school if there were a more widespread outbreak (2 or more cases in 14 days or a general rise in sickness absence where COVID is the suspected cause) or local lockdown. If this were the case we would revert to remote learning via Purple Mash and work packs but would now have to monitor engagement in distance learning.

Over the next week, an area will be put on the website to hold all COVID information including the risk assessments (just back from NCC on Friday) should you want more information. Links will also be put there for Government / NHS Guidance which is updated constantly.

We are undoubtedly in challenging and uncertain times but September has a familiarity to it that staff in schools always look forward to with a mixture of excitement and anticipation - it always marks a fresh start! We are so looking forward to having the school full again and are committed to making sure that your child has the best return to school socially and academically that they can possibly have.

Thank you for your continued support. Hopefully this is the start of the return to a sense of normality for South End Infants and our families. Please remember to contact us with any concerns or questions.

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Kind Regards

Mrs E. Ashcroft



## Northamptonshire County Council

### Northamptonshire Schools COVID-19 Notification Process



