

Monday, 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support as we make our plans to re-open school safely this January.

Please note that any plans are subject to change at short notice.

Schools receive no advanced warning prior to public announcements and so please bear with us. It may sometimes take us a little time to confirm any new arrangements with you as we respond to new directives.

Unless otherwise instructed, we are pleased to confirm that we will re-open tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January 2021, with only a few minor changes.

Phase 1

Due to staffing capacity, we are only able to open to Phase 1 pupils for the morning sessions until further notice. Arrival times are as usual, collection times are as follows:

- Pupils in Phase 1 Earth must be collected between 12.00pm and 12.10pm
- Pupils in Phase 1 Water must be collected between 12.20pm and 12.30pm

A school lunch will not be available. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals a packed lunch will be provided for them. (This does not include pupils entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals)

Phase 2 and Phase 3

All pupils in Phase 2 (Years 2, 3 and 4) and Phase 3 (Years 5 and 6) should return to school tomorrow as normal, using their usual staggered arrival and departure times. A school meal will be available to all pupils in Year 2 and those in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are entitled to free school meals.

We will continue to close early on Wednesdays, again using our standard departure times.

Return to School Anxiety

We understand that many parents will be anxious about their children returning to school and appreciate that it will be a difficult decision for you. We understand if you wish to keep your children home during these weeks, however, please be aware that any such absence will be unauthorised and no remote learning will be available. (Pupils will still have access to online resources such as MyON, Timetable Rockstars, and class blogs).

Tier 4 Restrictions

You will be aware that Gloucestershire is now subject to Tier 4 restrictions. The DfE guidance for Tier 4 regions is that face coverings are now mandatory on school premises unless you have a medical exemption. Please therefore ensure coverings are worn on or near school premises. May we remind parents and carers to observe social distancing at the gate, and not to linger at the gates for social engagement with other parents? It is your responsibility to keep our community safe.

Classroom Ventilation

Although we are experiencing colder weather we are still required to keep classrooms ventilated to reduce the spread of coronavirus. During these colder months, pupils are welcome to bring an additional sweatshirt or jumper to school to keep warm. These must be mostly plain and without large logos. In order to maintain our house bubbles these should also be in their house colour or at least with their house polo shirt collar visible outside the jumper.

Potential Lockdown

Based on the current transmission rates, it is possible that the coming weeks may see the country enter another lockdown. If schools close, St Paul's will remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical key workers however there will be a limited availability. If we enter a further lockdown, and you wish to apply for a place as critical key worker, you will be asked to complete the Education Provision Assessment and provide proof of employment. We will continue to monitor the situation nationally and will provide more information of and when necessary.

Headteacher Update

Is it with regret I must let you know I will not be in school over the next coming weeks as I am scheduled to have a minor operation this week (please be assured my absence is not covid related!). My co-headteacher Mrs Bevan is in charge during my absence and so any queries or problems should be directed to her. I look forward to being back with you all as soon as possible.

With our best wishes

Mrs Matthews
Headteacher