



Slindon Church of England Primary School

September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

I can't tell you how wonderful it was to welcome our children back to school earlier this month. We were all so pleased to see the children and it was great to see how happy they were to be back, seeing their friends and their teachers. There was a great deal less anxiety in the children than we were expecting and they are all continuing to settle beautifully, after such a long time away from school.

As the current climate nationally and locally continues to change, we are adapting our procedures at school. From the beginning of this week, we moved from two 'bubbles' to three 'bubbles'. There is more information about this on page 2, but we will constantly monitor and adapt our practice and procedures to ensure that we are doing the right things to keep us all safe, at the right time.

The one message that I would like to put across to you is that now more than ever, it is so important to read the communication that is being sent home. Whilst this week there are many permission forms to be signed and returned, we are trying to minimise the letters we send home and we endeavour to make any communication as clear as possible.

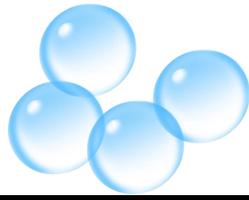
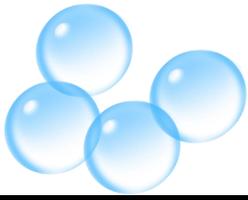
We also ask you to ensure that your contact details are up to date and that you are easily contactable by telephone. This is very important, should we be concerned that any child develops Coronavirus symptoms and need to be isolated.

There is information on page 3 about our curriculum and assessment, to keep you informed with what is going on in school. Remember to check your child's class page on our school website for more information. A separate letter will go out shortly regarding Parents/ Carers evening, due to take place during the week before the half term holiday. We will do this remotely this year, and will be asking your preferences with regard to how we can do this.

Lastly, as the weather seems to have turned this week we have put the heating on early (to the delight of staff and children!) Please remember that we have to keep the windows and doors open so children may need more layers than usual.

It's great to see you all again.

Lucy Cooper
(Headteacher)



Class Bubbles



We started the beginning of term with two 'bubbles', one as Catkin Class and the second as both KS2 classes- Acorn and Chestnut Classes. On Monday, we made the decision to increase our preventative measures, in light of the rising cases of Coronavirus, both locally and nationally.

For Acorn and Chestnut Classes, this means that the playground and field will be divided in half, to enable each class to remain in separate bubbles at playtime and lunchtime. These classes will no longer share spaces such as The Glade and the Library.

Staff will remain in their bubbles with the exception of Joe Coyle, who will continue to work with all classes during PE and outdoor activities. Mr Coyle will keep 2 metres away from children in Catkin and Chestnut Classes, to ensure that he does not risk possible transmission of the virus. Mr Mayne will also continue to keep within social distancing guidelines when he is working with the staff and children in

Acorn Class on a Friday morning.

You may have seen that staff in a number of local primary schools are wearing masks or visors for particular points of the day. This will of course depend on and vary, according to each school's context, building and Risk Assessments. At the moment, we don't feel it is necessary to wear either but staff do have the option to, should they feel it necessary.

If members of staff do decide to wear either a mask or a visor, we will let you know so that you can discuss it with your child/ children, should you feel the need.

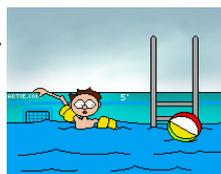
Lastly, our risk assessments are now on our website. They are regularly reviewed and the contents have been communicated to you through letters and newsletter since the beginning of term, but do let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Swimming

At the end of the last academic year, at the time when we would normally confirm our booking to take the school swimming throughout the Autumn and Spring Term, the country was in lockdown and swimming pools had closed.

In that uncertain climate, we decided that we would not book the coach and swimming pool sessions and instead, focus on more time learning outdoors, where we know there is also less risk of Coronavirus transmission.

We hope to return to our normal swimming schedule next academic year.



Slindon Church of England Primary School Facebook Page



After some thought and investigation, we have decided to keep the one Facebook Page which will be open to the public (pages cannot be made private and groups require an individual to manage them).

I will update the Facebook page with videos of the class environment and grounds to allow you to see inside the school whilst you are unable to come in. Only children with given parental permission will be visible on the school Facebook Page.

Curriculum



As you know, the whole school have been learning through Oliver Jeffer's beautiful text 'Here We Are', for the first two weeks of term. I hope to video the precious, insightful work that the children have produced and which is displayed in each of their classrooms.

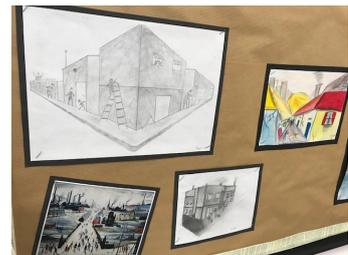
As we move on to the planned themes of learning for the remainder of the term, I want to share with you how we plan to address the gaps that the children will inevitably have in their learning, after such a long time away.

In Catkin Class, the children have been getting to know each other, the staff and the routines. They have been making the most of the beautiful weather we've been having throughout September, learning and playing outside.



In Key Stage 2 (Acorn and Chestnut Classes), each morning is structured so that the teachers can teach each year group separately in Maths. So for example, while Miss Heater is teaching Maths with Year 3, Year 4 are with Mrs Redman or Mr Coyle in the library and are practicing spelling Common Exception Words, working on SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) activities or Times Tables Rockstars. These groups then swap over and the class comes together for English before the end of the morning. This morning routine is the same in Chestnut Class.

In the afternoons, Acorn and Chestnut Class are 'blocking' their wider curriculum subjects. Chestnut Class have recently finished afternoons of Art throughout the week and Acorn Class have been enjoying their first RE topic about reconciliation. Both staff and children are really enjoying this new structure to the week. The afternoons are a great balance to the structured mornings.



In all of the classes, the teachers are now gently assessing where the children are in their learning. They are doing this in a number of ways, appropriate to the ages and stages of the children. This early assessment is so important to allow us to provide the right level of learning for your child/ children. Once the teachers are confident that the children have settled in, and secure with where each child is in their learning, we will begin to send books and home learning home.

The teachers will feedback to you where your child/ children are in their learning, how they have settled back into school and how both school and home can best work together for the benefit of each child.

Important Dates to Remember for the Autumn Term

Remember you can keep an eye on the calendar on our school website by just googling it from your mobile phone– you don't need to log in to do this. Texts are sometimes sent out as a helpful reminder.

- **Monday 19th October 2020**– Deadline for Cauliflower Cards orders (Children's designs of Christmas Cards).
- **Monday 19th- Thursday 22nd October 2020**—Parents/Carers evening (Separate letter will be sent out)
- **Friday 23rd October 2020**– INSET Day (no children at school)
- **Monday 26th October– Friday 30th October 2020 inclusive**– October half term holiday
- **Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd November 2020**– INSET Days (no children at school)
- **Wednesday 4th November 2020**– First day back to school for Autumn Term 2
- **Friday 18th December 2020**– Last Day of the Autumn Term
- **Monday 4th January 2021**– First day back to school for the Spring Term

Some important dates that we can let you know about now for the Autumn Term 2. Further details to follow:

- **Thursday 17th December 2020 at 1.30** - EYFS/ KS1 Nativity Performance in Coronation Hall (pending Government Guidance in December).

Next week, Ivy will spend a little more time out and about around school at different times of the day, as she has begun to this week. In order to become the best school dog, Ivy needs to learn to focus on me and her training. Ivy and I will be going into each class next week to talk to the children about what we all need to do to help Ivy succeed in her training. The message will be that nobody should change their behaviour at school, they don't need to be quiet around Ivy or worry about distracting her, but it is important that they don't approach her, as she has to learn to ignore all the exciting things going on around her. We will do only a few short bursts of this at a time, but if you see Ivy outside at the beginning or end of the day, please ignore us, as if we were not there. If you need to speak with me, let me know and I will bring Ivy inside.



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CHURCH OF
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Not sure what's going on at school?

Keep an eye on our school website, including the school calendar where you can find all the information you need.

www.slindonprimary.co.uk

