



SCHOOL MATTERS



Fortnightly newsletter of Poulton-le-Fylde, St Chad's CE Primary School
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23RD JUNE 2020 COVID SCHOOL UPDATE

Year 6 pupils

This week we have welcomed 28 of our year 6 pupils back Mondays-Thursdays. They are now in three bubbles so we have the capacity for the rest of the class. We are really proud of them all in the way they have settled back super quickly and are all following all the new social distancing routines. Never have their hands been so clean!

Key worker pupils.

We now have an increased number of key worker and vulnerable pupils in bubbles of a maximum of 15 pupils.

Bubbles

Each bubble is a maximum size of 15 pupils. Each bubble has to keep isolated in their own area, with their own staff. Toilet breaks and use of playground has to be timetabled.

We have between 35 and 38 pupils in each year group. From next week, we will be working at maximum capacity with key worker bubbles and the year 6 children, so sadly we won't be able to have any additional Reception and Year 1 classes. The government have said they are not expecting schools to return to full capacity and are not yet suggesting increasing the size allowed in each bubble.

Health and Safety

We have done risk assessments for every area and every activity, in consultation with the local authority who have now hold copies.

They include the actions taken such as:

There are one way zones marked around school, playground zones, hand sanitisers installed.

All equipment allowed has to be cleaned down after use, including iPads, balls, tables, bin lids, light switches, toilets ... the list is endless. Some equipment is not allowed: the adventure playground, reading cushions, soft toys etc

Children sit at individual desks 2 metres apart from each other, facing forwards.

Children have to sit at their desk and not get out of chairs to wander around.

They eat their packed lunch at their desk and there are no hot meals, as staff cannot socially distance in the kitchen.

Children are washing their hands on entry, before and after all activities, lunch and toilet use!

Staffing

It has been a busy time and we are constantly adjusting to new needs and guidance. We have had 30% of our workforce either ill, isolating or shielding some weeks and the teachers and teaching assistants have all been supporting each other with looking after children in school, setting the home learning and managing all the SeeSaw and emails and making phone calls to families. We have also delivered IT equipment and food parcels to families.

The future

Now that we know that we will not be able to see the children in school before the end of the term, we are looking at changes we need to make.

We are now trying to make contact with all families by phone. This is an opportunity for you to share any concerns that you have as a family and hopefully for the teacher to speak to the children too.

We are planning an optional summer programme of home based topic activities which you may want to use over the 'holidays'.

We are making a resource signposting to some useful home learning activities for those who want more than is set by the teachers.

We are aware that not all children have had the chance to see their friends over social media, so we are going to have a social zoom session for each class. More details will be sent to you over the App.

We will arrange for reports written about children's progress up to Easter to be sent home.

We are planning suitable activities to support children's emotional well-being and social education when they return to school.

We are planning assessment activities to identify where children have sustained the progress they have made, as well as any gaps in learning. This will enable us to plan a specific curriculum for each year group to ensure that they catch up after their absence as quickly as possible on return.

We await government guidance about what the expectations are for school in September, so that we can be ready in time.


We have planned a new style induction for all our new starters in September.

Thank you

I know that it has been challenging. None of us ever anticipated that so many children would be off school for so long. We get no more notice than you and often hear of changes to policy and guidance on the news reporting the government's daily briefing. This means we have had to adapt at short notice, sometimes without much chance to communicate with you as parents.

I would like to say a massive thank you for your patience and for all the support you have given your children in their home learning.

All named lost property has been set on one side to return to children.



Have you looked at the home learning pages and the blog on the school's web-site?

More Updates:



We are delighted to announce that Ms Eggleston the safe arrival of baby Audrey who looks beautiful. We look forward to meeting her post lock down.

Unfortunately Mrs Mel Fairclough, our lollipop lady, is off ill at the moment and we hope she gets well soon. We had the crossing patrol start again this week and we are grateful to Ms Liz Girvan, who is standing in at the moment.



We are sad to say farewell to Ms Turner who is moving to pastures new.

We are very grateful for all her contributions to the life of St Chad's and the impact that she has made on so many of our children. We wish her every happiness in the future.

Teachers for next year

Acting Headteacher: Mr Leeming

The infants will shortly be informed individually which classes they will be in.

Dolphins: interview process underway for a new teacher

Whales: Mrs Shrewsbury (Mon– Wed, Fri pm) and Mrs McCann (Thurs/Fri am)

TA: Mrs Coulson

Turtles: Mrs Kambouris (Mon– Wed) and Mrs Woodward (Thurs/Fri)

TA: Mrs Watts

Seals: Mr Walley (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) and Mrs Woodward (Wed)

TA: Miss Dale

Mr Walley is joining us while Ms Siddall is on maternity leave. He has lots of sports experience and will be managing the sports clubs.

Year 3: Ms Whatmough (Mon– Thurs) Mrs Parry (Fri)

TA: Miss Myers

Year 4: Mrs Crossley

TA: Miss Wardman

Year 5: Mr Fielding

Mr Fielding, who joining us for Autumn term, while Mr Leeming is Acting Headteacher, is a keen footballer!

TA: Mrs Swales

Year 6: Miss Hopwood

TA: Mrs Hopwood

Mrs Kambouris (Greek) and Mrs Parry (Computing or another subject) will be teaching in Y3,4,5 and 6 on Thursdays for the teachers PPA time (Planning, preparation and assessment time)

We will also have our usual specialists, such as sports teachers and music teachers.