

Dear Families,

Hope you have all had a lovely holiday and have taken advantage of doing normal things out and about in the summer sunshine (the bit we have had anyway!)

We are all excited that school will be open as normal for everyone in September. Regular handwashing and ventilation will continue to be the practice in school. We are going to continue to keep parents/carers/visiting adults out of the school building and limit the number of professional visitors we have as this has kept everyone safe and secure. In addition, the children have been much more independent, sorting their own things out and organising their belongings – something we all strive to teach them.

You will have questions and I hope we can answer as many here as possible but if you can think of anything that would benefit our setting, please let us know.

What time does school start?

Please could you ensure children arrive at school between 8:40 and 8:50 a.m. Nursery children arrive at 9am.

YR children and Miss Wickland's Y4 class will enter through the Nursery gate, Y1, Y2 and Y3 will enter by the playground gate (down the side of the modular classroom) and Mrs Roberts' Y5/6 class will come straight into the classroom by the fire door near the car park. Adults will be at the entrances to help the children say goodbye and then get them straight into their classrooms. This worked so well for the children last academic year that we are going to keep to this arrangement.

Bus and taxi children will be met by Mrs Seymour and taken straight to their classrooms.

What time does school end?

The Department for Education have said we no longer have to stagger departure times and so everyone will finish at 3:25pm (Nursery at 3pm). All parents will enter via the small playground gate by the modular classroom, wait on the top playground for your children and then leave through the car park double gates. Children will wait on the small playground and will be sent to you by school staff. We realise the parking issues will increase for you and the community but we ask that you always put the children's safety first whilst being mindful of each other.

Is there Breakfast Club and Home Learning Hub?

Yes! Little Explorers and Reception children will be in the Nursery for Breakfast Club and can access that facility via the Nursery gate. They will be looked after by Mrs Leonard in the morning.

Years 1-6 will be in Mrs Roberts' classroom for Breakfast Club and that is accessible by the gate near the car park. They will be looked after by Mrs Cawthorn.

In the afternoon, Home Learning Hub will be in the Nursery for everyone and the children will be looked after by Mrs Stevenson and our new Sports Apprentice, Ryan Moss. The children will be outside as much as possible.

Remember you don't have to book, just send word via your child or to let the office know.

Are school maintaining last year's precautions to minimise large groups gathering?

We do not need to operate in "bubbles" as we did all last year and so our children will be able to meet up as a school family at daily Collective Worship, lunchtimes and breaks. Our oldest children will resume their leadership tasks like reading to the younger ones and being playground buddies. We have some exciting plans afoot to reunite the whole school and if we are not instructed otherwise by Public Health Lincolnshire, the children can spend time together, learning alongside each other again.

What do the children need?

School will provide the children with their own stationery and maths equipment, therefore they will not need to bring pencil cases or bits and pieces in from home. They will need a bookbag of some description for their reading books and home learning journals (KS2 only).

How will toilet breaks be managed?

No one will be restricted from going to the toilet and pupils will be constantly reminded about the importance of hand washing. Our cleaning team will be there to clean the toilets after morning break and after lunch.

My child is feeling anxious about returning to school. What can we do to help?

Share all this information with your child and give us a ring/email so that we can answer any personal questions to help everyone prepare. Staff are in school on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September if you need us.

I am still worried about my child and family catching this virus. Do I have to send my child back to school?

The Government has said that all children must return to school in September. There will be no penalties from the Local Authority; better that we work with you to help your child to attend school in the best way for them.

What will happen if there is a potential COVID19 case in school?

In the event of a person in school displaying symptoms of the virus, their first duty is to tell someone. We will remove the person, adult or child, from the group as soon as is possible and take them to a designated space away from everyone else. Parents will be informed and they must book a PCR test for the person/family concerned. The person will be sent home as soon as possible. Public Health Lincolnshire will be informed immediately if more than five people become infected and will help school decide what needs to be done next. Please read the Covid Contingency Plan for a detailed risk assessment.

If Public Health Lincolnshire decide to close our school due to a localised Lockdown, will there be home learning for those who aren't in school?

Teachers will set lessons on the online platform "Seesaw" as was the case in January 2021. If technology is an issue for your family, we will do all we can to assist you in this, so that the learning can be accessed.

Meals

We are providing hot school meals for pupils in school as always. The Nursery and Reception children will eat in their rooms and there will be two sittings, 12-12:30 for Key Stage One and 12:30-1pm for Key Stage Two back in the hall. Please check to see if you are eligible for free school meals – there's no harm in trying.

Uniform

All children must come to school in uniform. A raincoat, sunhat and suncream are essential. PE kit (shorts, T shirt, tracksuit and trainers) will be needed for indoor and outdoor physical activity and can be left in the children's individual lockers.

School transport

School transport is available.

How should we continue to contact school?

Please see us at the school office, on the playground at the end of the day, call for a quick chat, make an appointment, email us or send a message via your child.

Every teacher is to have an information evening early in the term so that you can meet up, find out about your child's timetable and what they are due to learn in the year, meet the staff looking after your children and get to know the other parents. We look forward to seeing you then.

Parents of the Reception children, don't forget to meet Mrs Sherwood and myself on Friday 3rd September at 3pm for an information gathering meeting.

I do hope that has answered many of your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries on:

sue.belton@st-helenascofe.lincs.sch.uk

Looking forward to Monday 6th September when we are all back together.

Mrs Belton x