



St Nicolas and St Mary Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

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6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We appreciate that the last few days have been extremely challenging and hectic for all and realise that we have sent out numerous communications which can be tricky to keep on top of. We apologise for any confusion but are sure you will understand that, as a staff team, we have all been working as hard and quickly as we can to keep the school open for those families who need provision and to set up the new year group Google Classrooms.

We also appreciate the valiant effort of those of you who are beginning to home school again. We are aware that there have been a small number of initial teething troubles today with Google Classroom – although I am really pleased that many of our teachers have now had their first successful Google Meet with the children (all teachers commented how wonderful it was to see the children on screen). We have asked our IT technician to come into school today to trouble shoot the queries raised this morning. If your child's password or log-in is not working, please email the office and we will be able to re-set it. Thank you for your patience with this.

We have set out some FAQs on the next pages which we hope will answer any queries you may have.

Critical Workers and your child's attendance at school

- I am a critical worker but have not been informed that my child has a place at school.

*Places have been allocated based on responses to the survey that was sent out on Tuesday. We will be contacting individual families later today to confirm your regular spaces moving forward. Please note that in order to secure your place **during the longer term** you will need to provide evidence of your current key worker status as per below.*

- As a critical worker, what evidence do I need to provide to the school?

Please provide either a photo/scanned copy of your work ID emailed to the office office@stnm.org.uk or written confirmation from your employer (either on a headed letter or email) with details of your current Critical Worker status. Failure to do so will result in your place being withdrawn so that it can be offered to another family who needs it. We would ask for this to be sent in ASAP

Children attending school during lockdown

- How many children are in each class?

Year group bubble sizes are significantly reduced to usual class numbers, however they do vary per day and year group per year group. We are currently awaiting Government guidance on the maximum number of children per bubble but presently are not taking any more than 20.

We greatly appreciate all those families who are finding a way to keep their child at home even if they have a Critical Worker in the family. Although we are partially open, fewer numbers mean a safer environment for the children and our amazing staff team.

- Will there be temperature checks for children entering school?

No we will not be doing this. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that children do not come into school with any of the Coronavirus symptoms, including a high temperature. If children are sent into school and display symptoms then they will be sent home immediately as previously.

- Do you have any lateral flow testing kits?

We do not currently have testing kits and have not yet been instructed to test by the Government. This is something which is beginning to happen in secondary schools and colleges.

- Do I need to let you know if I no longer need a space for my child to attend school?

Yes please, as demand for spaces is extremely high and we will be able to offer that place to another child.

- Can I change the sessions my child will be attending school?

It will be extremely difficult to make changes to the sessions allocated as staffing is carefully timetabled for each day.

Communication with the school

- What email address should I use to send a message to school?

Please use office@stnm.org.uk

- Should I use the positivetest@stnm.org.uk email address?

From now on, only use this email to report a positive test. Any other communication should be sent to office@stnm.org.uk

- Do I need to let the school know if my child has symptoms or has tested positive?

Yes please! If they are attending school we will need to take appropriate action and if they are home learning we can let the teacher know that their home learning may be interrupted.

Is it mandatory to wear a face covering in school?

*It is mandatory to wear a face covering on school premises and we also encourage all parents/carers to wear one on the approach to school. Please note that this is not the case if there the person has a valid medical reason not to do so. Staff are now wearing face coverings when moving around the school however this is **not needed** by children.*

Provision for children entitled to Free School Meals

We are currently awaiting further guidance on the provision of FSM or vouchers for those families who are not attending school and will be in touch as soon as we have more information. Those children who are attending school will receive a hot school dinner as normal.

Provision of hot school meals on site for children who are not eligible for Free School Meals?

We are currently awaiting further guidance on whether hot dinners can be provided for children who are not in receipt of FSM. Those families who previously ordered dinners should have been given a refund by Chartwells in the interim.

Will my child still receive milk?

Cool Milk has suspended all deliveries. Please ensure your child brings in a named water bottle each day. Any paying parents will be automatically credited for this period. This credit will show on any future pre-payment requests.

Distribution of technology?

We are currently reviewing survey results for those families who do not have sufficient access to technology and will be in touch if we are able to loan additional technology or support eg printed resources.

Nursery – is Little Fishes Nursery open?

We are currently awaiting further guidance on this but have surveyed nursery parents/carers this morning to ascertain potential Nursery numbers if this an option.

Provision of stationery, notebooks for learning

School will be providing home learning books for children and these will be ready for pick up from tomorrow. Please get in touch if you have difficulty in printing resources at home or if you need support in providing other equipment such as pens, pencils etc.

Refunds for Octopus Breakfast Club, Starfish After School Club and swimming

Refunds will be provided for all of the above and we will begin to process these next week.

We hope this addresses many of your queries but do email office@stnm.org.uk should you have any further issues.

Kind regards



Mr A Lincoln
Acting Headteacher