**St Anne (Stanley) C of E School**

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26th June, 2020

 Dear Parents,

**Re: School Updates for the possibility of Reception children returning to school**

Firstly, I hope you have all remained safe and well throughout the initial closure of our school. We would like to invite our Reception children back to school from Monday 6th July. I wish to reassure you that all measures are in place when our lovely children return. We will update you with days and times as soon as we have confirmed numbers of children wishing to return. Dependent on numbers, we might have to offer just two days per week as we will be ensuring that we adhere to 2m social distancing until the end of term. The children will be with their current class teacher until the end of term.

Thank you for returning the completed questionnaires so quickly, this has helped us to plan carefully for the children’s return. I also appreciate your continued patience, especially as there as so many different news stories at this present time. We are very fortunate in Liverpool that the authority, unions and schools are working side by side to ensure that the priority will always be the safety and well-being of our children and staff.

 Full risk assessments and procedures have been put in place to protect our children and staff. We have created a detailed plan to make sure we can safely welcome our children back to school.

Precautions we have taken include:

* Limiting class sizes (no more than 8/10 children per bubble)

Classrooms & hall (for lunch times) arranged to ensure that 2m distance rule is in place

* Introduced a one-way system in school – (to ensure 2m distancing measures)
* Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times – times allocated to parents prior to children starting school
* Only one adult to bring a child to school – parents to remain in identified area with social distancing adhering to social distancing
* Identified areas for each bubble of children to use, including their own classroom, toilets and outdoor space
* Increased cleaning – throughout the day, with intensive cleaning of bubble areas after school
* Children and adults to ensure washing of hands throughout the day
* Windows in each bubble are open prior to the children or staff entering the building
* All doors are kept open – to reduce the need to touch surfaces (Fire doors close automatically in the unlikely event of a fire)
* Digital thermometers available in each bubble area
* No visitors to the school office or building
* Safe Distances to be adhered to across the school and the grounds
* Designated areas should a child or adult become ill
* Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

 In addition, to the government guidance we are fortunate to have detailed guidance compiled by the LEA and unions. We also, have our own health and safety company who have supported the school to ensure that we have been able to consider all aspects of our school being again.

Many parents have asked what will it be like in school for the children, how will school operate etc.

In addition to the full health and safety precautions we have various measures in place. These include:

* The children are arranged into groups (known as bubbles) of 8-10 children.
* Each bubble will use the same classroom, allocated yard space and toilets throughout their time in school
* Each bubble will have the same two adults with the children each week – their class teacher and teaching assistant.
* Each bubble will have a lunch time supervisor (the same one for a week)– who will take the children down to the hall for lunch at the allocated time and return with them to class
* Children will be required and encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day
* Children will have their own allocated space with their own equipment (e.g. stationery/ipads)
* Resources will be wiped throughout the day – children and staff will support with this

To support our children’s return we will initially focus on their well-being and introduction to our new established school routines. Our aim is to focus on providing very positive experiences for returning to school.

The children’s school day will appear slightly different than before in terms of the curriculum they had previously. However, they will still focus on mathematics and English basic skills – primarily reading, phonics and problem solving activities. They will also have opportunity to a lot of physical activity outdoors and a wide range of art and craft experiences.

Currently, due to the numbers in school and areas involved – each bubble of children can take advantage of how often or when they use their own outdoor environment. Reception children will have the area outside the EYFS gated part as their outside space, their toilet area is also provided. Should we introduce more children at later dates then timetabled outdoor breaks/learning will be in place – to allow full cleaning of the areas between use.

We will not be allowing any visitors other than children and staff into the school – this included previous learning support from French, Computing, Cookery and Sports specialist – to enable us to reduce the possible risk of infection in school.

Children and staff are able to wear comfortable, sensible clothing and footwear –and are not required to wear their school uniform during these last few weeks.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings) for further information.

I want to reassure you again that we won’t be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what’s best for your child’s health and wellbeing. We’ll continue to provide you with more details, as and when we receive further guidance, so you can make the appropriate decision.

Currently, our school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils, children of critical workers and Year 6 children.

For pupils at home, we’ll continue to support you and your child with home learning, and meal support for those eligible. As soon as we have the final confirmation of the number of children wishing to return, we will forward a letter explaining all the arrangements for returning to school.

If you have any questions, please contact me on either the school phone number or via email.

Warmest wishes to you all.

Julie Simons

Headteacher