

20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited that your child will be joining us at All Saints Marsh in our Reception Class in September and along with myself the Early Years team; Miss Robertson, Mrs Gentry and Miss Rippon, can't wait to welcome them as they start their school journey with us. I would like to share with you the plans for welcoming back all our children for the Autumn Term after a period of partial closures to some groups of children due to Coronavirus.

The Government has set out that all children should return to school in September and that attending school will be statutory (a legal requirement) once again. We are delighted that we will be able to welcome back all of our children and have been busy evaluating what has worked well in school this term and what we can build upon to ensure our plans support all children to return in a safe and happy way. The Government has now set out its guidance on fully opening schools and we have been working with colleagues across our Trust, writing Risk Assessments and planning steps for this. The welfare and safety of our children and school community is paramount in all that we do.

Parents, who have been able to send their child to school during this period have fed back on how supportive they've found school and how helpful staff have been in supporting their child's return to school in a settled way. The numbers of pupils returning in the year groups we have been able to open up to have continued to rise as parents have shared with each other how much their child has enjoyed being back.

However, we recognise that for some children, who have not been in nursery for quite some time and now starting at a new school, there may be mixed emotions, some very excited and others may feel a little anxious - these are all completely normal and understandable. I have attached our Risk Assessment and Key Information for starting school in September that outlines what we have in place to support the return to school for all pupils. We are absolutely dedicated to planning a smooth start for all in September to welcome all our children and families back and particularly making the first days for our new children happy and with them bouncing out and excited to return!

I'd like to reassure you that school does and will continue to feel familiar to children and it will feel very similar to their nursery and pre-school experiences. The children are still able to play together, have stories, paint, build, play games and be outside. We do not expect young children to socially distance and although we will support them to be as safe as possible, because we are having children in key stage bubbles the children can mix together exactly as they always have done. Our kind and dedicated staff are doing a lot of preparation and are confident in the new ways of working and are able to support and care for your child safely. This means that school will feel safe, relaxed and the children will feel quickly part of our school family.

To prepare the school and staff fully for the September opening, **Thursday 3rd of September will be a non pupil day** (this is one of the Non Pupil Days moved from the two week half term in May/June 2020). **School will open to all pupils from Friday, 4th September.**



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**TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE**



Our new Reception children will be having a 2 hour welcome session on Friday 4th where they can meet the staff, familiarise themselves with the classroom and have a short positive experience that will make them feel confident with the routines and ready to come into school on Monday 7th September. You can arrive at school between **8.30 and 8.50am** at the back door and collection will be from **2.45pm** also from the back door.

This staggered start will ensure we can give each child the time they need to welcome and spend time with them to show them where everything is. We have organised the welcome sessions so that families with siblings have the same collection time and we have ensured children are arriving in small groups and with children that they know. We will be contacting you with the time for your child's session and this will be an opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

As part of our commitment to helping your child return to school, we are sharing all of the information with you about the measures that will be in place. I realise that this is a lot of information but it is key that everyone knows the plans so can all be working to ensure a smooth start of term and play their part in keeping our school community safe. Please read the attached information carefully and keep it somewhere safe so that you can return to it nearer the start of term in September.

There is a child friendly prompt sheet for each class and a link to a video showing the children where they come into school which you can see here

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kEjH5D8hag1m0zB-PT\\_UI19BopuQBUWT/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kEjH5D8hag1m0zB-PT_UI19BopuQBUWT/view)

The health and safety of all our children remains our priority. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are and will be continuing to work hard ensuring school follows guidelines produced by Public Health England, the government and the local authority. We will also be in contact throughout the summer holidays if guidance is updated and if any of the proposed plans change.

We will keep you updated regularly next term too - I know how valuable lots of you find this information so that you know what we are doing to keep your child, our staff and our whole community safe.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions and we will be happy to talk through arrangements with you. We will be in touch today or tomorrow to share with you the time for your child's welcome session on Friday 4th September.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer and I am very much looking forward to welcoming you to our school family next term.

*Mrs Edwards*

Head of Academy  
All Saints Marsh C of E Academy