



Stanley Crook Primary School

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OUR MISSION: TO TRY OUR BEST, TO TELL THE TRUTH, TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY

"Pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare is OUTSTANDING" (Ofsted, 2019)

24.08.2020

Returning to School in September

Dear Parents/ Carers and Children,

I hope that you are all enjoying a safe and relaxing summer break.

Ongoing news stories in the local and national media may - for some - be continuing to cause worry, anxiety and uncertainty with regards the full return of school. With this in mind, I wanted to 'touch base' with our school community to provide some information regarding planning and our move towards a full reopening in September.

A great deal of work and preparation is ongoing behind the scenes in order to ensure that a return to school is safe for all members of our community. Planning will continue to take account of national and local guidance and will reflect the most up to date information from Public Health England and other available NHS/ health advice.

After many, many months of uncertainty and worry, everyone at school is looking forward to welcoming the children back to school for the new academic year. On a personal note, after successfully continuing with my own recovery, I am very much looking forward getting back to school and working alongside my outstanding Team in delivering a successful start to the new academic year.

However, due to the ongoing situation with Coronavirus/ COVID 19, school will be operating differently from the 'norm'. Despite this, all of our efforts and priorities around provision will be focused on ensuring children remain safe in school and can get back to enjoying being with their friends, having fun and learning once more.

The main principles around risk assessment and control measures in school will be based on the Government's 'Prevention' and 'Response' actions and will include:

- a requirement that children/ staff/ parents/ carers who are ill, stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement within NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimal potential for contamination in so far as is reasonably practical

Additional support information for parents/ carers in the event of their child, themselves or a member of their family becoming ill/ developing Coronavirus symptoms - including actions required and returning to school following a suspected/ confirmed case - will be published later this week. Information on school attendance will also be provided to parents/ carers.

Many children will also be feeling anxious regarding returning to school - partly due to what they may already know concerning COVID, but also due to the fact that they may have not been away from their family for a significant period of time. The curriculum offer at school upon our return in September has been carefully planned by staff in all Teams and will focus on providing children with a range of learning opportunities - prioritising mental health and wellbeing, while at the same time delivering a measured and sensitive approach in response to any anxieties or upset.

A whole-school approach in supporting our children return to school has been established and will be based, in part, around the Oliver Jeffers book - 'Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth'. This unit will engage children from all Teams - as well as parents and members of our school community - in supporting a return to school, as well as forming the initial basis of our wider recovery curriculum.

We are also very much looking forward to welcoming our new Reception children to school and every effort will be made to ensure that these children enjoy a fun, happy and safe start at school!

To follow, I will republish updated information - initially released to parents/ carers in July - regarding school organisation for the new academic year. This information includes details on start dates and staggered timings of the school day, as well as information on how we plan to support your children enjoying a successful return to school.

I will also republish information to parents/ carers of our new Reception children which provides details on further transition arrangements/ visits and start dates for children in this year group.

The new school year will begin on Wednesday 2nd September for existing pupils only:

Pupils from our previous Reception to previous Team Rowling (now 'Cowell') cohorts will return to school in their current Teams in order to reintroduce themselves back into the routine and familiarity of school.

- **For children who were in Team Donaldson last academic year, their start time will be 9:35am.**
- **For children who were in Team Dahl last academic year, their start time will be 9:25am.**
- **As Team Rowling (now 'Cowell') is moving as one Team - alongside Mr Teasdale and Mrs Corrigan - to Team Walliams, they will begin immediately in their new Team room. Start time for these children will be 9:05am.**
- **Pupils previously in Team Walliams will also move immediately to Team Morpurgo on 2nd September. Start time for these children will be 8:55am.**

This 'transition' period will last two weeks with pupils participating in a range of wellbeing and transition programmes aimed at preparing them for a move to their new Teams. These pupils will officially transition to their new Teams on Monday 14th September. During these first two weeks, visits to school for our new Reception pupils will be carefully coordinated to coincide with 'transition days' for existing pupils to their new Teams (see dates for Reception transition visits below).

Pupils in the new Reception cohort will start the new school year on Monday 14th September.

These pupils have not enjoyed the benefit of our normal comprehensive transition support package. Therefore, Mrs Wilkinson and staff in Team Donaldson will be holding additional transition visits for pupils in this year group, prior to their full start at school on the 14th September.

Tuesday 8th September: 9.45am - 11.15 am (Group A) and 1pm – 2.30pm (Group B)

Thursday 10th September: 9.45am - 11.15am (Group B) and 1pm – 2.30pm (Group A)

Monday 14th September: School starts at 9.35am for Team Donaldson who don't have siblings in school. Full details are found in the whole school organisation letter.

From Monday 14th September, following transition/ induction of all children to their 'new' Teams, start times will be as follows:

- **Team Morpurgo: 8:55am – 2:55pm**
- **Team Walliams: 9:05am – 3:05pm**
- **Team Cowell : 9:15am – 3:15pm**
- **Team Dahl: 9:25am – 3:25pm**
- **Team Donaldson: 9:35am – 3:35pm**
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In cases of families with children in separate Teams, all children from that family will arrive at school for the start time relating to the oldest child's Team. The younger child(ren) will then join their own Team 'bubble(s)' upon arriving at school. At the end of the school day, collection for all children from families with more than one child at school will be based on the finish time of the oldest child's Team 'bubble'.

Further meetings in school this week will aim to review and finalise plans and arrangements for welcoming all children back to school in September - further updates will be published on Class Dojo on Friday, which will include information on drop-off and collection arrangements for Breakfast Club and Wraparound provision.

Meantime, enjoy the remainder of the summer break and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Christie
Headteacher

Stanley Crook Primary School is committed to improving outcomes for all pupils

