



St Osyth C of E Primary School

A member of the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

Norman Close, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8PN

01255 820823

schooloffice@st-osyth.essex.sch.uk

www.st-osyth.essex.sch.uk

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday morning, it was lovely to welcome our new Reception children. They had a good time playing and getting to know each other and the staff team that will be working with them. Today, and over the coming week or so, we will be helping all children settle back to in to school. We know that some will find this easier than others and so will try to help each and everyone in the best way that we can.

Thank you for your understanding and support about the staggered start and end times to our school day. The staggered start appeared to work more smoothly this morning than yesterday morning – which is no great surprise as we know that it will take us all a few days to adjust to all the new arrangements that schools have had to put into place.

Just to clarify a couple of practical matters.

1. Children are very welcome to have a water bottle in school. This must have their name on. Children are unable to use our water fountains because of the risk of the spread of infection.
2. Children are to have their, named, PE kits in school.

From today, we have started assessing the reading, writing and mathematics of children in Years 1 to 6. This will be done in a way that is appropriate for the age and stage of development of each child. It is important that we do this right at the start of the year so that we know what children need to learn next and can use this to plan teaching in classes and in small groups, pairs and individually. We would normally undertake such assessments at the end of the Summer term and then analyse them over the summer holiday. Having not even seen some children for five months it is imperative that we undertake this as soon as possible.

We hope to be able to still hold some meetings with parents during this term. For example, we have provisionally planned to hold parent consultations (October 21st and 22nd) with use of face masks, sanitiser and other infection control measures. Nearer the time we will make a final decision about this and share all relevant details with parents and carers.

Within the next two weeks, each phase of the school will be sending out their termly newsletters. Please look out for these as they have lots of useful and important information on them.

At the time it was announced, there was much made about tuition and funding to help children 'catch-up'. Schools have still received very little information about this, for example, school do not know exactly how much additional funding is available to them and exactly what spending criteria will be attached to it. What schools have been told is that no additional tuition will take place this half term and that any tuition that takes place after that will be part funded by out of current schools' budgets. We will share more information after we have received and considered it. We will also not wait until November to help children 'catch-up' or make accelerated progress. Part of the reason for undertaking assessments from tomorrow is so that in just a few weeks' time we can start giving some children additional provision, or interventions.



As preciously shared with parents and carers, one of the changes from the start of this term, is that Mrs Levett and I are leading Mistley Norman Church of England Primary School and Nursery as well as St Osyth. During the holiday, and last term, we undertook a lot of work in preparation for this. One of the reasons for doing so is so that we can both be here at St Osyth as much as possible. Mrs Levett will continue teaching Year 6, each morning, and we will both be available to parents at the start and end of the day, as much as possible. This term, Mrs Levett will be able to do this more than me.

Our main aims continue to be to keep all children safe and happy in school and to ensure that all children make good progress, whatever their starting points. This is only possible with good partnership working by our whole school family – children, parents and staff. Mrs Levett, myself and the whole staff team look forward to working in partnership with you all over this coming year.

This morning, in worship, the children thought about how learning new things and doing new things can require us to be brave, to take risks and an acceptance that we don't get everything right first time. Mrs Levett, Miss Collins and two children showed this with learning and being able to hold one of our chickens. The children then went on to name them – Chuckles, Fries, Pepper, Lolly, Sky and Julia.



Today, all children are being given a passport of activities. This has been produced by the trust that we belong to. There is a letter, for parents, to explain everything they need to know about this passport.

Just to reiterate what I said yesterday, I have every sympathy and understanding why some parents may not yet quite be sure about some of the ways that school will be different this term - after all the risk assessment and operational plan is, by necessity, very long and there has been a long time from when a copy was first given sent to you and the start of this term. Below is some of the key practical information that parents and carers need to know and need to follow.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Carter-Tufnell
(Headteacher)

Entry and exit on to school site at the start and end of the day.

- One parent/carer per family, not per child, on site.
- **Arrive at allocated time, see below.** It is vital for families not to arrive before or after the allocated time.
- If there is a need to wait, then to wait 2M apart at the main gate.
- When on site, to walk 2M away from other children, parents/carers and from staff.
- Walk to their usual classroom, unless the family have been explicitly told otherwise.
- Exit the site from either the main gate or the side/back gate, into Meadow View.
- **The side/back gate, into Meadow View is only to be used for exiting the school site** – it is too narrow for two way pedestrian traffic with social distancing.
- **Families that have two or more children**, and they have different start times, **are to arrive for the earliest of the allocated start times.** These families are to first walk to the class with the earliest start time and then others in order of their start times. Staff will be in the classrooms to receive these children.

Collection of children at the end of the day

- **Children to be collected at the times**, detailed below.
- Parents, when collecting more than one child, to collect the child with the earliest home time and then to wait, away from others, for the home time of the next child that they are collecting. We need to work together so that children from different bubbles and households are socially distanced.
- **No child will be released earlier than the time allocated** for their class/phase bubble.

Schools have been told to have staggered start and end times. Parents and carers must support this. If parents and carers do not support this then they are increasing the risk of infection to themselves, their children and other children and parents and staff. Nobody wants that to happen.

Upper School

Classroom	5/6LS	5/6O	5/6S
Class Teachers	Miss Sowton	Miss Oxley	Miss Salmon
Arrival time	8.30 am		
Departure time	3.20 pm		

Middle School

Classroom	3/4A	3/4G	3/4T
Class Teachers	Mrs Alston	Miss Gildersleeves	Mrs Parascandolo Mrs Tibbetts
Arrival time	8.40 am		
Departure time	3.10 pm		

Lower School and Reception

Classroom	2K	1/2A	R/1 LK	RE
Class Teachers	Mrs O'Reilly	Mrs Antoniou	Mrs Rivas-Long Mrs Kirk	Miss Esparon
Arrival time	8.50 am			
Departure time	3.00 pm			