



ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EXPECT, ENDEAVOUR, EXCEED

FRIENDSHIP

TRUST

JUSTICE

ENDURANCE

COMPASSION

KOINONIA

29th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience regarding the planned return to school as proposed by the government. I'm delighted to say that I received a phone-call this morning from the Local Authority confirming that our plans and risk assessments have all been cleared, and that we can proceed. A massive thank you to Kerry Darby whose expertise in this area has been invaluable, and who has supported me throughout the holidays and term-time to ensure that we can go ahead safely as a school. This letter will outline our plans to you all.

Important bit ☺

As always, we will be as flexible as we can to accommodate your wishes, and understand that you may want to change your mind as the situation nationally continues to develop. However for the next few weeks we have no choice but to operate under the strict terms and conditions of our risk assessment and plans, as signed off by the LA. If we don't seem as accommodating as usual therefore, it's nothing personal but the fact that for reasons of liability, we simply have to do what has been agreed. Someone changing their mind from a "yes" to a "no" is easily sorted and can happen immediately, someone changing their mind from a "no" to a "yes" is not quite so easy and depends on a number of factors, so please bear with us and be prepared to wait for bubble spaces to become available if this is the case.

So... "as things currently stand" ☺

Home Learning

Thank you for all the support you have given us regarding Home Learning. The comments on the survey were overwhelmingly positive, and I know that class teachers have enjoyed receiving your emails and seeing what the children have been up to. I know I have been absent from Twitter recently, but I do catch up with it every so often, and I love seeing the pictures on there and finding out what families have been doing. I know sometimes that apathy can set in with these things, and there's a bit of a "do we have to?" about it, but I do think it gives a sense of whole school community, so thank you to those who are still posting – I'll try and join in next week!

- On Tuesday, our half term will begin. Home Learning will be sent out on Tuesday morning next week (then on Mondays after that) and this will follow the curriculum we will be doing in school within the different "bubbles"
- Mrs Steenkamp and Mrs Hannam are the "Elton Home Front" supporting Home Learning, therefore some things will change:
 - Any queries regarding Home Learning, **regardless of the year group your child is in, or which teacher they have**, will need to be sent to jsteenkamp@elton.cambs.sch.uk or hhannam@elton.cambs.sch.uk, subject header "Home Learning" please. Other staff will be in school and will not have the time to **respond** to any emails sent regarding home learning, however this does not mean that they won't be **interested**, so feel free to cc class teachers in so they are kept in the loop.

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- Phone calls home cannot happen from next week, but if you feel that these have been particularly valuable for you or your child, and that it would be hard to give them up completely then please contact me, and either Mrs Hannam, Mrs Steenkamp or I will try our hardest to contact you.
- For families receiving vouchers, we have managed to order them retrospectively for half term, and you will continue to receive vouchers for children at home this half term too.

Returning to School

Those of you who expressed a wish for your child to return to school will receive an additional letter from me. This will be on Monday, as we are waiting confirmation from the bus company and there are a couple of “bubble” details, we need to iron out. The follow-up letter will outline the details, and be written in a bullet point/question and answer format. Below is just a summary of the return to school plan, so that parents who might be in two minds can see what it would entail and are kept in the communication loop. If you do feel, that you would like to change your mind from a “no” to a “yes”, please do not assume that you can just turn up/put your child on the bus – we need to know and to have agreed things with you before that can happen, for the reasons given above (under “Important Bit” ☺).

- There are currently 4 bubbles:
 - A key worker bubble with Jane Murphy and Nicky Garrod (Arrive between 08:20-08:30, leave at 3:30, unless on bus)
 - an EYFS/Y1 bubble with Lisa Beasley and Faye Logan (Arrive between 8:30-8:40, leave at 3:05, unless on bus)
 - a Year 1/EYFS bubble with Michelle Mytton and Laura Day (Arrive between 08:40-08:50, leave at 3:15, unless on bus)
 - a Year 6 bubble with Andy Shaw (Arrive between 8:50-09:00, leave at 3:25, unless on bus)
- We have to limit the number of children in each bubble to 15.
- We are keeping siblings in the same bubble to reduce contact and therefore risk, this is why some year groups are mixed, however they will follow their own year group’s work and have some friends from their year group to play with.
- Children in bubbles will mix together but not mix with children/adults in other bubbles.
- Children will not be 2m apart from each other within their bubble – this is within government guidance.
- There are additional members of staff to provide “socially distanced supervision” at break-times and lunch-times and give “bubble staff” a break.
- Break times will be on the field which will be divided into sections.
- Lunch will be provided (likely to be a packed lunch or something hot that can be taken away and eaten without cutlery like pizza for example). We will eat outside where possible. Children should be able to open all packed lunch items and packaging independently, if brought from home.
- EYFS and Y1 meals will be free as per usual.
- The bus should be running for those children who would usually catch it – we are just waiting for confirmation of a few details.
- There are staggered start and finish times for each bubble – therefore there will be no drop and roll, however children catching the bus will be met by 2 members of staff.
- Children should come in school uniform where possible (but if things are now too small, or have been thrown away, don’t worry about replacing them this year – wear what you have). Children should be able to take all items of clothing on and off independently (including fastenings).
- Only a water bottle (and a packed lunch if your child is not eating school dinners) should be brought into school – no book bags, no books, no toys, no pencil cases etc, although if you want to send your

child in with their own personal supply of hand gel (there will be a supply in school) you are more than welcome.

- Absolutely no adults other than members of staff and authorised visitors will be allowed in the school building – no toddler (or adult) toilet stops I'm afraid 😊
- All communication through the school should be done via email or phone. If the phone is not answered when you call, please leave a message; voice messages will be checked regularly throughout the day.
- If you need to see a member of staff, or collect a child early for any reason, this must have been agreed in advance with the school and someone will come out of the building to meet you.
- All adults will need to say goodbye to their child at an external desk in the morning (I'll be there, registering them). If a child is unable to walk into school independently down the side path, then regrettably we will not be able to peel them off you (as we would normally) nor let you go in with them. Please talk to your child about this, and don't worry if things don't go to plan and you end up taking them back home with you on Tuesday morning 😊... none of us know how we will react to the new situation, and there's absolutely nothing wrong with finding things difficult and scary.
- There will be markers to encourage 2m distanced queuing.
- At the end of the day, we will bring out each bubble to be collected at a designated time. There will be markers indicating where parents should wait. We will release children one at a time to avoid parents crossing paths, please wait for your child to be released.
- We are allowed to refuse entry to anyone who we believe not to have been following the government guidelines re social distancing.

As stated earlier, I will send out more information once we have received final details from a couple of external sources, but this should hopefully give you a flavour of what to plan for if you emailed Mrs Wass last week stating that you wanted your child to return to school.

I fully anticipate that we will have to “go with the flow” next week anyway and if something isn't working, we will learn from it and change it, then communicate this to you all.

I'm going to send this now, before something else changes and I have to re-write it again 😊

Have a lovely weekend! If you are back on Tuesday, then you'll hear from me again on Monday. If your children are remaining at home, then Home Learning will wing its way to you on Tuesday morning.

Take care and thank you for your support,

Claire Arnold

Claire Arnold
Headteacher