

Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School



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Dear Parent/Carer

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

**Re: Return to School Plan – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

I am writing to let you know the plans for how our school will operate from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 when the children return to school.

In line with the current Covid regulations, DfE (Department for Education) advice and guidance from the MAT (Multi-Academy Trust) we will be continuing to take a measured and sensible approach to how we move forward. The lifting of some restrictions nationally, allows us to review and change how our school operates so that we can begin to mix bubbles, meet again as a whole school, welcome parents and visitors into school and deliver our curriculum in a more flexible way.

At the same time however, over the last 18 months, we have made changes which have been extremely positive and which we intend to maintain. We all also need to be mindful that Covid 19 still poses a risk to our school community and therefore our Risk Assessment also details protective measures which we will continue to keep in place for the time being.

**Staggered start times:**

These have worked extremely well and we have received extremely positive feedback from children, parents and local residents. Children are coming into school more calmly and ready to learn, teachers are able to begin lessons more quickly, there has been a significant reduction in traffic management issues on Westcroft and the staggered drop off times mean that it is a much safer way for children to come into school. Meeting and greeting everyone at the main gate has also become my favourite time of the school day and we therefore intend to continue to do this. We will however, be condensing the staggered times as follows:

**8.40am – Diamond and Emerald Learning Zones**

**8.50am – Ruby and Sapphire Learning Zones**

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## 9.00am – Opal and Amethyst Learning Zones

As previously, if you are dropping an older sibling off you can drop all other children off at the same time.

We will also be maintaining our handwashing and hand sanitising routines upon arrival, throughout the school day and before the children leave at home time.

### Face Coverings & One-way system:

Any adult coming onto the school site will still be required to wear a face covering and to continue to follow the one-way system.

### Bubbles:

With effect from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, we will no longer be required to keep children in separate bubbles. This is fantastic news and will allow us to come together for Collective Worship and Assemblies again. Children will be allowed to play together at playtimes and lunchtimes and this will also allow us to deliver our curriculum in a more flexible way with children from different Learning Zones coming together for some lessons or interventions.

### Collective Worship and Assemblies:

These will take place between 10.10 – 10.30am each morning apart from a Wednesday which will be at 9.10 – 9.30am. We have reviewed the format and seating arrangements in the hall and children will be sitting in a semi-circle with their Learning Zone.

### Play times:

We will revert to our normal playtimes which will be from 10.30 – 10.50am in the morning and from 2.15 – 2.30pm in the afternoons. All Learning Zones will have playtime at the same time, allowing children to play with others outside of their Learning Zone or with siblings and other friends.

We have exciting plans to redevelop our outdoor area this year and will be introducing different play zones for children to explore whilst playing outdoors.

### Lunchtime:

From 11.45 to 12.15pm our Opal and Amethyst Learning Zones will have their lunch together in the school hall and then go outside onto the main yard and field for playtime.

All other Learning Zones will have their lunch on a rota basis in four sittings between 12.15pm – 1.15pm.

This year we will be setting up a table in the hall for children who eat slowly or who cannot finish their lunches within the allotted time. Children allocated to this table will begin their lunch at

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12.15pm regardless of their Learning Zone's place on the rota. This way, they will sufficient time to finish their meal and get some fresh air and exercise. Class Teachers will identify children who this will apply to and you will be informed.

### **Collection times:**

**3.15pm – Opal, Amethyst and Sapphire Learning Zones**

**3.25pm – Ruby, Emerald and Diamond Learning Zones**

Again, adults are asked to wear face coverings and to follow the one-way system.

### **PE**

All children should bring a PE kit to school to change into for their PE lessons. However, children in the Diamond Learning Zone cannot change in their Learning Zone and due to Covid restrictions, we cannot have a large number of children getting changed in the toilet areas. Therefore, children in the Diamond Learning Zone should come to school already wearing their PE kits on a Monday and Tuesday. This will be reviewed in line with guidance on Covid and our Risk Assessment as ideally they should be getting changed for personal hygiene reasons.

### **Bringing Personal items into school**

Children should only bring essential items to school with them such as their PE kits, book bags, school bags and stationery. Children cannot bring toys or other non-essential items into school. Children should only bring fidget toys into school if this has been agreed as part of a School Support Plan to meet an individual need.

### **Continued protective measures:**

- We will be continuing with handwashing and hand sanitising throughout the school day.
- All Learning Zones and shared areas such as the hall will be ventilated with windows and fire doors being kept open (weather permitting).
- Our Lunchtime Supervisors will continue to wear PPE during lunchtime.
- Our Cleaning Team will continue to wear PPE.
- We will continue to use the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' strategy.

### **What do you do if your child has symptoms?**

You should keep your child off school if they have symptoms, inform the school office and book a PCR test immediately. Your child should isolate until a negative test result is received. They can return to school once their PCR test result is negative.

In the event of a positive PCR test result, your child should isolate in line with Test and Trace advice.

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If we think that a child is presenting with symptoms whilst in school, you will be contacted to collect them asap and arrange a PCR test.

### **What will happen if a child has a positive test result in my child's Learning Zone?**

Children in the same Learning Zone will no longer be required to isolate if there is a positive test result in their class. Your child should continue to attend school as normal.

### **Outbreak Management Plan:**

All schools are now required to have an Outbreak Management Plan which will outline the action to be taken in the event of an outbreak of Covid within the school. This is currently being assessed by our Health and Safety partners and will be available on our website once it is approved.

### **Welcome Back!**

We are all very excited to be welcoming everyone back to school on 6<sup>th</sup> September. As always, we have lots of new ideas and plans for the year ahead and I will keep you informed of those via our website over the next few days.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding our return to school plan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Head Teacher

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