

## ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL CHELYNCH PARK, DOULTING, SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET, BA4 4PL

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**HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen** 

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

I hope everyone has had a good weekend and had chance to rest and recharge following the first week back. As I said last week, children have settled back in brilliantly and we look forward to another good week at school.

### **School Day Timetable**

We are really pleased with how our routine to work within bubbles is working and how slick the drop off and collection has become. Thank you for your co-operation and support. As this is proving to be successful, we would like to shift our timings to before 9am each morning. We appreciate that many parents have had to compromise and make alternative arrangements to continue with work commitments. We hope this change will help parents as well as ensure we can carry out our curriculum each day. The new timings will start on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September:



Bubbles	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Gate	Back gate	Back gate	Front gate	Front gate	Back gate	Back gate	Front gate
Drop off	9am	8:55am	8:55am	8:50am	8:50am	8:45am	8:45am
Collection	3:15pm	3:10pm	3:10pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3pm	3pm

I understand that it is difficult not having the usual face to face conversations with your child's class teacher but it has been really helpful that parents have communicated queries and concerns through email, Tapestry or ClassDojo. We are not able to discuss individual children at the gate, as our focus is on getting everyone into school. It is also not appropriate to have this sort of conversation in front of children or other parents. Please do continue to get in touch as you need to but appreciate that teachers are not available to talk at the gate.

Please can you inform the office if someone different is collecting your child. This can then be passed onto the class teacher. Thank you.

Lunch timings have also been altered to accommodate the changes. This includes a shorter lunch break for Year 5 and 6 as they will finish earlier than previously:

Bubbles	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Lunch in							
hall with	YR will have	11:55am	12pm	12:25pm	12:25pm	12:45pm	12:45pm
MDSAs	their lunch in						
Field with	the classroom	12:25pm	12:25pm	12pm	12pm	1pm	1nm
MDSA	and play in their	12.23μπ	12.23μπ	120111	120111	трііі	1pm
Outside	playground for	12:45pm	12:45pm				
area with	this term	Teacher	Teacher	12:45pm	12:45pm	12:35pm	12:35pm
teacher		input	input				

### Illness, Colds and Attendance

We are now entering the season for colds and bugs. I know everyone is being very responsible to ensure they do their part to keep others safe and well but thought it would be a good idea to clarify different symptoms and attendance at school. If your child has a cold - runny nose, sore throat, chesty cough - and you would normally send them to school, please continue to do so. Clearly if your child comes in and we feel they are struggling to cope with being in school, we will call for you to come and collect. If they have a sickness or diarrhoea bug, they must be kept



at home from the start of symptoms and for 48 hours after the last symptom. If your child has Covid-19 symptoms – high temperature, new and continuous cough, loss of taste or smell – they must stay at home and a test must be carried out. School need to be informed of the outcome. If the test is negative, children can return to school. If it is positive, the child and family need to isolate for 10 days.

It is really important that children do attend school where possible. We are working hard to settle into our new school year and begin our recovery curriculum. It will become very challenging if children are absent without good reason. We all know that children have missed a large part of their education and need to do everything possible to ensure every child attends to continue their education.

### **Wrap Around Care**

Thank you to everyone for logging in and booking places on Wisepay for Breakfast and After School Club. We do understand that it may take a little while to get familiar with the process but hope this speeds up in time. With the alterations to school day start times, we will be adjusting the payment for the session from 8:30-9am to £1 as many children will not be in the session for half an hour. Breakfast will only be served in the earlier session (8-8:30am) which will remain at £2. I apologise for the changes but it will settle down to a system that works for us all. Refunds will be issued but this may take a little while as it will have to be done manually for every booking. Refunds will go back onto the card that you paid with originally. Please bear with us.





Don't forget your child's Welcome Meeting this week. You will have received a link to join the meeting in the Class Welcome letter on Friday:

Class	Teacher	Meeting Day and Time
Y1 Nightingales	Mrs Phillips	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 4-4:30pm
Y2 Magpies	Miss Wood	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 4-4:30pm
Y3 Owls	Miss Juden	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 4-4:30pm
Y4 Finches	Miss Horgan	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 4:30-5pm
Y5 Woodpeckers	Miss Hodsman	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 4:30-5pm
Y6 Blackbirds	Mrs Newman	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 4:30-5pm
YR Robins	Mrs Scott and Mrs Cohen	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 4-4:30pm

During this time where we are doing everything possible to minimise risk and transference of germs, we will not be sending any children's work or artwork home. All pictures and paintings from class or after school club will stay at school until half term, when they will come home in one go. We have also decided that any birthday sweets, treats or cakes are not allowed to be brought into school. Again it goes against the guidance to minimise risk. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Public Health England launches Every Mind Matters campaign**

Most families have experienced upheaval in their daily lives during the pandemic. With children and young people now back at school or college, the new Public Health England (PHE) <u>Better Health – Every Mind Matters</u> <u>campaign</u> provides NHS-endorsed tips and advice to help children and young people's mental wellbeing, and equip parents and carers with the knowledge to support them.



The new advice available on the <u>Every Mind Matters website</u> has been developed in partnership with leading children and young people's mental health charities, including <u>Young Minds</u>, <u>The Mix</u>, <u>Place2Be</u> and <u>The Anna Freud Centre</u>. It is designed to help parents and carers spot the signs that children may be struggling with their mental health and support them, and also provides advice that can help maintain good mental wellbeing. The site also provides tools to help young people build resilience and equips them to look after their mental wellbeing. (From the Department for Education)

### Hands, Face, Space campaign

A new public information campaign has been launched ahead of winter to highlight how everyone can help to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Yesterday the Prime Minister launched the 'Hands, Face, Space' campaign urging the public to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates and avoid a second peak. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Schools and other education settings must ensure that staff and pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. (From the Department for Education)



NHS

# We must keep on protecting each other.







STAY ALERT > CONTROL THE VIRUS > SAVE LIVES

We look forward to seeing you online for the Welcome Meetings.

Kind regards

# Píppa Cohen

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