

# Attending learning & care during the CoViD-19 health emergency

## Information for Parents of Children in School

Since 23<sup>rd</sup> March, only the children of critical workers and vulnerable children have been attending our setting. Now, the Department for Education and Hartlepool LA, in the light of scientific and medical advice, have given permission for the wider opening of early years and school settings, to children in daycare, from birth to the age of 5, and children of Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 6.

We are beginning this wider opening from Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June by welcoming those children in the eligible age-groups and classes, who have not attended since 23<sup>rd</sup> March. They will visit for an induction session during the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, where they will meet their teacher. During the next week, beginning on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, they will be introduced to the other children in their 'bubble' over a series of sessions, ready to attend full-time from the following week, beginning on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

School will be very different to the setting they left on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March. We would be very grateful if parents could talk through the difference with their children. While the children will have experienced, or at least heard about the changes during their visit, we have prepared this pamphlet to give parents information about school during this period.

## Preparing to come to setting

### School Kit

Each child will have an individual 'workstation'. Their everyday equipment and resources will be kept in a tray at their desk. Other belongings can be kept in a box under the desk. There are a few things to which each child should have access, that we hope parents will provide, including:

- a hat & suntan lotion (labelled) – we expect to spend more time outside so on sunny days please apply before coming and children will re-apply during day;
- a box of tissues;
- a water bottle (approx.. 1 litre) which can be easily re-filled each morning and used during the day;
- a change of clothes;

If these could be delivered, in a labelled carrier bag, to the setting, before children return full-time, and at the latest by Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June. You will be informed when or if re-fill is needed.

### Uniform

Children need to wear clothes that can easily be washed when they return home from school, so it is recommended that children try to wear a variation of 'summer uniform', namely shorts and t-shirt (if possible, in one of our school colours – jade, white, blue, red, yellow and green) one of which could be their PE top. The blue gingham dress would also be an option. (We are not changing into slippers during this period).

### Handwashing & respiratory hygiene

This is the most important way that children can protect themselves and others from the spread of the virus in school. Children need to wash their hands thoroughly:

- On arrival;
- Before and after eating;
- After any activities during which they have touched potentially infected surfaces, such as after being outdoors;
- After using the toilet;
- After coughing or sneezing and disposing of the tissue;
- Before leaving for home.

Children will learn how to use the paper towel, after drying their hands, as a barrier to protect from potentially infected surfaces as they leave the washroom.

Trapping coughs and sneezes in a tissue (or the crook of the arm in emergencies), disposing of the tissue and washing hands afterwards, helps reduce the risk of spreading infection. This will become even more important in the Autumn, as the usual colds and 'flu' begin to spread.

### Social Distance

Workstations have been positioned so that children have a distance of 2 m from others. Teachers and practitioners will maintain social distance from themselves and the children, which means teaching will be very different. Moving around school will be supervised to ensure children keep their distance. Outdoors, the children will be reminded to maintain social distance while playing.

## Arriving at the setting

### Handing over children

Instead of the fixed start of the school day, the arrival time of children will be staggered, with each having their own 'slot'. Parents will be asked to leave their child at the gate and send them to a 'gathering spot' on the playground.

### Children entering the setting

Practitioners will be waiting in the playground as children arrive at their time-slot. They will send children, individually, to wash their hands, on the way into the classroom. So, it is helpful if they have nothing they need to carry into school.

## In setting

### Bubbles

Children will be in much smaller groups than usual, with no more than 15 classmates in each group. These 'bubbles' will spend all their time together in school, have separate breaks and even take their lunches as separate 'bubbles'. The guidance suggests that these arrangements will mean that while the group 'meets up' with a larger number than elsewhere, being kept separate from others will mean that each 'bubble' becomes a 'safe contact' reducing the viral load on the children's household.

### Meals

Universal free school meals will be provided for all children in Reception and Year 1 and school meals will be available for Year 6 children. To reduce the amount of equipment coming in and out of the setting each day, it might be safer if children took the school meal rather than bringing packed-lunches from home. (If children prefer a packed-lunch then please wash the lunch-box thoroughly when it returns home, and wipe down the external surface with a disinfectant wipe before leaving the house each morning. The lunch box will be stored in the child's box under their desk.)

### Illness

At this time, please be vigilant and keep children away from the setting at the first sign of illness and err on the side of caution. Please do not use the normal, "See how you feel at playtime" approach.

If children become ill while at school, then parents will be contacted, as usual, to come to collect them. (During this period, we will contact parents/carers only, so they can decide the best course of action.) If a CoViD-19 infection is suspected the child will be isolated, supervised from outside the room or by someone in PPE if they need closer support, while awaiting collection. While we recognise that lots of childhood illnesses are accompanied by high temperature and cough, as you might expect, we will be extremely cautious at this time, so expect to be called for conditions that we previously may not even have mentioned.

We will inform all parents of children if a case of CoViD-19 is confirmed in their room and provide Public Health England advice and instructions.

### Extended provision

One 'bubble' in each year group will be open from 7.45 am until 5.45 pm each day. Only children in these 'bubbles' will be able to access extended provision, so if it may be needed before the end of term, ensure your child is in the correct group, as once fixed no one will be able to transfer.

## Leaving the setting

### Collecting children

Children will be brought to the gathering spots in the playground, by practitioners, before the allocated pick-up slots, staggered as on arrival. As soon as parents arrive at their allocated time, the practitioner will dismiss their child to join their parent at the gate.

### Washing clothes

It is advised that children remove their school clothes and wash thoroughly as soon as they arrive home. Thus, it will be helpful to consider which clothes your child wears for school so they are easily washed each day.

## Contacting the setting

### Attendance

As usual, please call the setting each morning, if your child will be absent. It would be very helpful, if this call could be made before your child is expected to arrive.

### Administration

Please do not enter the setting, unless by appointment. For practical and administrative issues, please telephone school.

### Learning

Tapestry, our real-time reporting platform, will continue to be useful for contact between home and practitioners to support learning. Teachers and practitioners will not be available before or after sessions as they are normally. They will arrive in the setting 'just-in time' and leave as soon as possible after their teaching time, to reduce contact and any spreading of the infection to others. Thus, to speak with the teacher leading your child's 'bubble', please telephone to make a telephone appointment.

### Contacts

Email: [admin@sjvschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@sjvschool.co.uk) (for bookings)

Telephone: 01429 273273 (absence/to make appointments)

If your contact details change, please make sure we know immediately.