

St Benedict's C. of E. VA Junior School

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Dream, Believe, Achieve.



Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Re: Return to School in September

Firstly, a huge thank you for your support and understanding in what has been a most unusual time for the country and the school. I am pleased to say that we have seen the best of the community spirit for which Glastonbury is famous and it has been heart-warming to see people looking out for each other and supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.

We are looking forward to all our pupils returning to school in September but, inevitably, it will feel strange to return to relative normality after the events of the last four months and I'm sure you have many questions and concerns. Here are answers to some of the questions parents and pupils have been asking...

When are we back?

Year 3 only will start back on Monday 7th September. We wish to have a day with our new Year 3's as we have been unable to complete our normal transition with them this year.

All other year groups will return to St. Benedict's on Tuesday 8th September.

Will it be back to normal?

Kind of! We will have **year group bubbles**, which we will keep to whenever possible. Within these bubbles, pupils will not need to distance from one another, but adults will. There will be some exceptions to the bubbles, e.g. pastoral provision and wraparound care, but we will inform you if your child may be out of their bubble. Bubbles will have staggered breaks and lunches.

Will my child be safe?

We will be following government guidelines and will keep your children as safe as possible. If we have concerns, we will share them with you. If you have concerns, please let us know.

What are the attendance rules?

The government has set out clear expectations that every child should attend school from September, even if they have been shielding up until now. Having had so much time away from school, we hope our pupils will be excited about returning and we are hoping for excellent attendance in the autumn term. If you or your child has any concerns about attendance, please contact us this week.

What time will school start and finish and where can I drop off and collect?

There will still be staggered starts and different entrances, as follows:

Year 3 start at 8:45am, finish at 3pm – drop off and collection at the back gate (Proper Job entrance).

Year 4 start at 8:45am, finish at 3pm – drop off and collection at the front door (opposite church).

Year 5 start at 9am, finish at 3:15pm – drop off and collection at the back gate (Proper Job entrance).

Year 6 start at 9am, finish at 3:15pm – drop off and collection at the front door (opposite church).

Please be aware that drop off before these times will not be possible, unless by prior arrangement. If you have two or more pupils in different year groups and you are unable to make all these times, please drop off all pupils at the later time.

Parents may not enter the school building or school grounds. This is so that we can avoid groups of parents gathering on the school premises and also to maintain our bubbles. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please contact the office who will arrange a call/meeting.

Will there be school uniform?

Yes, the usual school uniform. This is available from the office. Blue school jumper, white polo shirt, black or grey trousers and black shoes. Pupils may bring in trainers to wear at break times.

Will there be wraparound care?

Yes, but it will need to be pre-booked. DASH will continue but will be limited to 20 spaces and will cost £2 per child per day, and £1 to children in receipt of the Pupil Premium (which will include breakfast); this will cover the cost of staffing. After school care will now be run by St. Benedict's, so will be at our school throughout the week (until 5:30pm). Again, this will need to be pre-booked. Other than this, there will be no after-school clubs for the first half term at least.

Will there be hot dinners?

Not for at least the first three weeks (we will review it after this). We cannot mix bubbles in the Hall, so we will eat packed lunches outside if the weather permits, and in classrooms, if not. We will provide packed lunches for any pupils in receipt of Free School Meals. **Free School Meals MUST be ordered in advance.**

What will the curriculum be?

Your child's safety, happiness and wellbeing are of the utmost importance to us and when we return in September, we will have a focus on wellbeing as we return to a more regular curriculum. We are keen to get back to our wider curriculum, but we are also eager to plug any gaps that may have resulted from prolonged absence from school, so expect a focus on the basic skills of Maths and English.

What can I do to support my child?

Focus on the basics. Encourage them to read for pleasure - perhaps sign them up for this summer's Reading Challenge: go to <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>. Practise times tables recall and practical skills like telling the time. Also practise handwriting, focusing on letter and number formation.

What can my child bring to school?

In September, your child may, once again, bring a bag to school, but they should not bring any stationery or other equipment/items. They should bring their packed lunch and a drinks bottle (clearly labelled). They may of course bring a coat and they should bring a PE kit. These items of clothing, along with their school uniform must be clearly labelled to minimise the risk of contamination, caused through pupils accidentally swapping clothing. If they do not come in labelled, we will label them at school.

This is not an exhaustive list, but hopefully I have answered some of your key questions and put your mind at rest ahead of our return to school in September. This is all subject to change depending upon government updates. I am certain that if we work together as a school community we will get through these challenging times and school will be back to normal before we know it.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes to you and your families; have a relaxing and restful summer and stay safe,

Piers Ranger
Headteacher