

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

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Headteacher: Mr P Ranger

Dream, Believe, Achieve.



Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

## Re: Whole School Restart on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Following last week's news that schools will welcome back all pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, I am writing to confirm our plans and safety measures for re-opening.

The risk assessment we have in place will be the same as for the autumn term, with a couple of notable additions:

- All staff will do Lateral Flow Tests twice a week,
- All staff will wear masks in common areas (not in class or outside – unless they choose to).

We will maintain our hygiene measures, reminding children to hand-sanitise/wash hands to minimise the spread of infection, as well as being mindful of distancing.

We will keep to the bubble system we have had in operation since September, with staggered starts/ends to the day, and breaks and lunchtimes as well (see below for drop-off and collection details).

### How you can help:

- **Continue to be vigilant** – if your child has symptoms of COVID-19, please isolate them and book a test. Mendip cases are currently low and we are desperately keen to keep it that way!
- **Wear a mask for pick-up and drop off.** We will be reminding any parents/carers without masks of our expectations and will offer you a surgical mask if you are not wearing one,
- **Ensure your child has the correct kit.** We would prefer not to be lending/sharing school jumpers/PE kit, so please make sure your child has the correct kit on the correct day.

### A reminder of pick up and collection details:

Year Group	Collection/Drop-off point	Start time	End time
3	Back Gate (Proper Job entrance)	8:45am	3pm
4	Front entrance (Benedict Street)	8:45am	3pm
5	Back Gate (Proper Job entrance)	9am	3:15pm
6	Front entrance (Benedict Street)	9am	3:15pm

### Lunches:

Our catering supplier, Beech Catering, will be providing pupils in receipt of Free School Meals with a hot meal each day. This needs to be pre-ordered by you. Please let us know if your child does not wish to have a Free School Meal. All other pupils will need to bring a packed lunch into school each day.

## **Attendance and punctuality:**

We will expect children to attend school every day. If your child cannot attend for any reason, please let the office know by 8:30am on 0145 83811. We will be mindful of the fact that schools currently have different start times, and that this may affect your child's punctuality. If this is likely to be the case, please let your child's teacher and me know.

## **Wraparound Care:**

**Wraparound Care** will resume from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. **DASH** will begin at 8am (£2 per pupil, £1 for pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium).

**Ben's Den** will run until 5pm each night – please contact the office re prices, dependent upon your needs. Please note that ALL wraparound care must be pre-booked and will be allocated on a first come-first served basis.

For the time being, there will be no other clubs – we will review this after the Easter holidays.

## **Our priorities from 8<sup>th</sup> March:**

### **Wellbeing:**

Our number one priority will always be your child's wellbeing, so this will be a whole school focus when we re-open to all pupils. Year groups will undertake ad hoc wellbeing sessions to address the needs of their pupils and there will be a focus on outdoor education and exercise to promote wellbeing.

### **Wider Curriculum:**

We will continue to focus on our broad and balanced curriculum, with engaging topic-based learning linked to the local community. We are hoping to prioritise events like the Tokyo Olympics alongside local trips and visits, once it is safe to do so. In conjunction with this, we will prioritise Maths and English, plugging any gaps your child may have with targeted class teaching and interventions.

I am very proud of the excellent staff team we have at St. Benedict's and with our positive attitude to the restart I am sure that we will quickly re-engage our pupils and they will rapidly begin to make excellent progress. **It is essential that you continue to support your child with the basics and hearing them read/reading to them regularly at home is a must for every child.**

### **Parents' Evenings:**

We have Parents' Evenings on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. It is crucial that you book a slot to speak to your child's teacher. Many pupils have missed significant chunks of school in the past year and we hope to work with you to identify the key focus areas to support them in reaching age related expectations as soon as possible.

### **Finally...**

**A huge thank you for all you have done towards supporting your child's education in the past few months.** We recognise how difficult this has been for many of you and we are very grateful for your efforts. I am hopeful that the return to school of all pupils will be the start of life returning to usual and we all look forward to that. Well done for all that you have achieved since Christmas. Please know that St. Benedict's School is here for you, so if you wish to discuss anything, or have any concerns, please just ask.

Best wishes to you and your family and stay safe,

*P D Ranger*

**Piers Ranger  
Headteacher**