



**Together Everyone Achieves More**

*Through.....*

*Loving learning, loving each other and loving life  
itself*

*AGAPE: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)*

North Curry Church of England Primary School  
Greenway, North Curry, Taunton, Somerset. TA3 6NQ  
Tel: 01823 490423 Fax: 01823 491080  
E-mail: [office@nc.huish.education](mailto:office@nc.huish.education)  
Headteacher: Mrs H Morley  
[www.northcurryschoo.co.uk](http://www.northcurryschoo.co.uk)

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following guidance issued on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February by the Government, I am writing to you with information regarding the full opening of North Curry C of E Primary School from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### **Return to School Arrangements for all classes including Little Herons Pre-School**

#### **Class Bubbles and the Curriculum**

We are looking forward to welcoming all of the classes back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the same class bubble that they were in in the Autumn term. The bubbles will be based in the same classrooms and have their own safe outside area which will be the same as before Christmas. This will enable us to continue to keep each class bubble separate. Children will be seated side by side facing forwards (as far as practically possible and where furniture allows), which helps to reduce the risk of any infections being passed between individual children. The teachers and support staff will be distancing themselves from the children, avoiding close face to face contact and minimising the time spent at this close distance. In Minnow class, we will continue to teach in the usual manner where the children have the opportunity to move around freely and interact in groups.

During that first week, the staff will be focussing on supporting children's mental health and well being. This will also enable us to plan any targeted support with Ms Harris in the forthcoming weeks.

The children will be taught both a broad and ambitious curriculum. In these first few weeks back we will be assessing where the children are which will enable us to plan any additional support with our interventions staff – Mrs Eddy and Mrs Filmer – or address gaps in the children's knowledge and skills within normal class support. We will also be briefly re-capping on some of the core learning done at home.

In Minnow Class with our Reception children the focus will be on developing language and early reading, Phonics and Maths skills.

Mr Bulbeck (our specialist PE teacher) will continue to deliver the usual two hours of PE each week which will be on the same day as before Christmas so please ensure your child has their PE kit on school on this day.

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### **Assemblies/Collective Worship**

Although we are still unable to have any large gatherings altogether in the school hall, we shall be holding daily acts of worship led by the teachers virtually in the class bubbles. As the children have already had a virtual Show and Share assembly there will be no further Show and Share assemblies until after Easter.

### **Protective Measures including Ventilation and Cleaning**

Staff will continue to use natural ventilation at all times within the class bubbles. Therefore all external windows and doors to the classrooms will be kept open at all times throughout the school day (where possible and safe to do so). Please make sure that the children have their school jumper and coat in school at all times just in case they get cold. Keeping hands clean is still one of the most important ways of preventing the spread of Covid-19. Children and adults will be expected to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser on entry to school in the morning and at other regular points during the day including break times and lunchtimes. The school continues to have plentiful supplies of both handwash and hand sanitiser so there is no need for you to provide this. There will also be both hand washing and 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' posters in all classrooms and cloakrooms and supplies of tissues to ensure good respiratory hygiene.

Our 'Green Machine' contract cleaner and our own cleaner will be ensuring that our school site is thoroughly cleaned at the end of every day. This enhanced cleaning will ensure that we help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Staff in school continue to have access to additional cleaning materials throughout the school day in their class bubbles to ensure surfaces are kept as clean as possible.

### **Response to any infection**

Unfortunately your child/ren will not be allowed in school if they, or anyone else in the household has any symptoms of Covid 19. If your child shows any of the symptoms of Covid 19 whilst on the school premises they will be sent to the yellow room with a member of staff until you can collect them. We will actively encourage you to get a Covid-19 test and inform us of the result as soon as possible. If this test is negative then your child/ren will be allowed back to school. If it comes back positive then you will be advised to follow the Covid-19 Stay at Home guidance, which states that you should isolate for 10 days. The school would then seek advice from the local health protection team and the DfE Coronavirus helpline as to what additional action may be required.

### **Start and end of the school day**

If your child usually travels on school transport, we will assume that they will continue to do so, unless you tell us otherwise. Please refer to separate guidance from School Transport on the rules, regulations and arrangements regarding your child's particular route.

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School Transport will drop your child/ren safely at the Staff Car Park gate on Portmans as close to 8.30am as they can. A member of school staff will be there to greet them. That member of staff will safely deliver your child/ren to the relevant entrance where their class teacher will be waiting to greet them and send them on into class. The opposite will happen at the end of the day when a member of school staff will collect them from their classroom at 3.00pm and deliver them to their relevant bus, which will be waiting at the staff car park gate. Please ensure you are there to greet your child from the bus at the end of the day. Either myself or Ms Harris will be on duty around the school to also make sure they get to where they need to be. As always with our children who use school transport, if you need to speak to your child's class teacher then please telephone or email the school office in advance or at the end of the day.

We will continue to use our five different gates, for a way in and out of the school. This prevents cross-bubble mixing and helps to reduce the numbers of people congregating on or near the school premises. We strongly advise you to **walk** or **cycle** to school (although unfortunately we don't have the capacity to store bikes on the school premises currently). If you have to drive to school then please park well away from the school site entrances and exits.

We strongly encourage you not to drive up or park on Portmans in order to help keep everyone safe.

There is still an expectation that only **one parent/carer** drops/collects their child at the beginning and end of the school day and is **wearing a face covering**. Please remember that your child is your responsibility outside of the school gate and that roads around the school can be very busy. School staff will continue to sign your child out at the end of the day. Unfortunately, no parent/carer will be allowed on the school premises unless authorised by a member of staff.

As a reminder, school for Little Herons, Minnow and Dolphin classes will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm. For Starfish class school starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.10pm. Octopus class it is an 8.35am start and a 3.05pm finish. Finally, school for Shark and Seahorse classes and the bus children starts at 8.30am and finishes at 3.00pm. Please ensure that you keep to these times (as far as is possible) and not to arrive too early or late (especially if you are sharing a gate with another class).

Although I completely understand that having all the different gates for entering and exiting the school (as well as an increase in traffic around the school site) is far from ideal, we are doing the best that we can given the nature of our school site, the loss of the staff car park and our location in the village. Please do bear with us. If you have any concerns about the traffic or safety outside of the school gates then please contact the Parish Council or the local Police on 101 directly **rather than the school**.

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### **Face Coverings and Lateral Flow Testing**

As a school we are following the Government guidance which states that in primary schools children do not need to wear a face covering and that primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs (Lateral Flow Devices). School staff may be wearing face coverings at certain points in the day and will continue to test with LFDs twice a week at home as per existing guidance.

### **School Uniform/Equipment**

All children should be wearing their school uniform and adhere to our school uniform policy. Please also ensure that they have the correct PE kit in school on their PE day (Monday – Dolphin and Seahorse, Tuesday - Starfish, Dolphin and Shark, Friday – Minnow and Octopus). Uniform is optional in Little Herons Nursery but please do take advantage of the free polo shirt that you will be provided with. Children may wear anything they like (as long as it is practical) on their bottom half.

Children will need to bring a sensible rucksack (no larger than 40cm x 40cm) containing their lunch (if bringing their own), a water bottle, a book bag (if they have one), a jumper/fleece, wellies (Little Herons for outside play and Shark, Octopus and Dolphin as they may need them to walk on/across the school field), a coat, and sun cream and sunhat (when needed). Please ensure that they do not bring any other unnecessary items such as toys etc. Children will not need to bring hand gel or soap as we have plentiful supplies.

### **Break times, lunchtime and school lunches**

Break times will continue to be staggered. This is to reduce the mixing of children across class bubbles and will help to avoid cross-contamination. The class teachers will decide when the class has a break from their learning. This will be at least twice in the morning and possibly once in the afternoon.

As all lunches were cancelled when the school closed in January, please ensure you reorder lunches on ParentMail for the remainder of the Spring term. Lunches for **w/c 8th March** must be made by **Wednesday 3rd March**. For now, whilst we facilitate the return of all children, we will continue to offer packed lunches only. This will be reviewed for the Summer term, when we hope to slowly reintroduce hot lunches. We will update you with regards to this in due course. Whether your child has a school packed lunch or a home packed lunch, these will be either eaten in the children's classroom bubble or outside in their own safe designated area.

### **School Trips**

Unfortunately, for the health and safety of both staff, children and volunteer helpers, there will still be no trips or visits for the rest of the Spring term. We will review this decision at Easter.

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### After School Clubs

We are still unable to run any after school clubs for the rest of this Spring term. As mentioned earlier our priority is the safe and happy return to school for all children. Again like the school trips, we shall review this decision at Easter.

### Wrap Around Care

Daily Wrap Around Care in the form of the morning Heron Breakfast Club from 7.30 – 8.30/8.45am and then the afternoon Heron club from 3.15 – 6.00pm will commence on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please ensure that you only use this facility if you **really** need it to ensure that we continue to keep everyone safe. Please book your sessions via ParentMail asap in order to guarantee your child's place. We are able to take no more than 14 children per session.

If you pay via **tax free childcare** or **childcare vouchers**, please book your sessions in the usual way using the paper booking forms. If you have previously completed a form for the Spring term, there is no need to complete another form. However, if you wish to amend your booking, please email the school office. Please note that all existing ParentMail WAC bookings can be checked via your ParentMail account (this includes those who pay by TFC or vouchers).

### Parents' Evenings

We have taken the decision to reschedule our two Spring term Parents' meetings until the Summer term on the 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April. More details, including the format of these meetings, will follow after the Easter break.

### Attendance

All school aged children will be expected in school as normal from the 8<sup>th</sup> March unless your child becomes unwell either with Covid-19 symptoms or another illness. The Government has been very clear in its guidance and has asked us as school leaders to enforce attendance of children in the manner we would normally. I understand that some children and parents will be anxious and I would ask that you contact school via the office as soon as possible so that we can find ways to provide support.

### Behaviour Management

During the last lockdown, we reviewed our Behaviour and SEMH policy in light of Covid-19 which is available on our school website. Before the return to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, please could you revisit the Behaviour Pyramid with your child/ren so that they are aware of the behaviour expectations in school. The staff will be re-enforcing both the positive and the negative aspects of the pyramid during the first week back. We know the vast majority of children behave well all of the time, but we will need to be firm with those that put the health and safety of others at risk by refusing to following instructions or behaving in an inappropriate manner.

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### Visitors to the School site/Volunteers

The Government has said it is acceptable to have visitors on school premises if they are professionals supporting children in their well-being or education. For example, social workers, educational psychologists, school nurse service, play therapy, etc. There may also be the need for contractors to be on site carrying out essential works, although we will try to make these visits outside of the school day. However, we are aiming to reduce the number of non-essential visitors and volunteers will not be returning to their roles at least up until Easter. Therefore, can I please ask that all parents/carers avoid dropping in to the school. There is a post box at the main school gate for smaller items and in the event that you need to drop anything larger than this you would need to phone the school office to arrange for a member of staff to come down to the main gate to take the item of you.

Please do ring or email the school office with any other queries or issues you might have.

### Risk Assessments

Our updated risk assessment has been approved by Governors and shared with staff. They will be available for you as parents/carers to view on the policies section of our school website.

May I take this opportunity for your continued support in these difficult times. I know having your children at home for many months and for a second time has been far from ideal so as a staff we are very pleased that the government has said that all staff and children can return to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to a happy and successful rest of the Spring term and academic year.

Kind regards,

Helen Morley  
Head teacher

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