



Every Child Matters Every Day Counts

Stonebow 

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Dear Parents and Carers

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **End of year letter and start of new year post closure**

We've finally reached the end of a rather fragmented academic year. I would normally be reflecting on the events of the summer term and looking forward to the new academic year – which since the government announced that schools would be reopening in August/September, I'm now able to do. However, the way in which we will open, is still subject to the guidance from the Department for Education. More details are included, later in the letter.

### **Farewell to Year 6**

Thankfully, Year 6 were one of the year groups who have been able to return to school since 1<sup>st</sup> June. Despite returning under different circumstances, it has been wonderful to see them. We were able to say farewell yesterday afternoon, sitting in circles under the shelter of the trees for a picnic. The Friends of Stonebow kindly paid for t-shirts which have a photo of all the children in the year group – a memory to treasure. Unusually, it was more about the smiles than the tears, as the children were so pleased to see each other. They have been a pleasure to work with throughout my time at Stonebow, including in the making of the video which accompanies this letter. I hope their recent experiences of school will reassure those children (and parents) who have been at home since March.

My opportunity to work directly with them before their cancelled SATS tests, had only just started. However, all the hard work they were putting in will not be wasted just because the tests were cancelled, this will serve them all well in Year 7. I wish them all the very best in the future!

### **Thank you for home learning support**

I was thrilled to see so many of you last Friday, when you collected the end of year reports and final project workbook. We have kept track of all the work books collected during lockdown, along with the children's engagement on Google Classroom and Tapestry. I know the challenge of becoming a teacher at home was quite a daunting one for some. It is clear that a large proportion of our children who have been at home since March, have continued their learning and will be well prepared for their return after the summer holiday. Thank you for all your efforts with this! Some links were shared on my previous letter, if you wish to continue supporting your children over the summer.

### **Information for the return of all pupils on Wednesday 26 August 2020**

In order for you to have all the information you need regarding the return of all pupils, I recommend you read the DfE guidance we are working to as a start point:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

From the guidance, we will be focussed on the following system of controls:

## **System of controls**

*This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the sections below.*

### **Prevention:**

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school*
- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual*
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach*
- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible*
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)*

*Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.*

*Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.*

*Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.*

### **Response to any infection:**

- 7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process*
- 8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community*
- 9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice*

*Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.*

The school has remained open throughout the pandemic, closing only at weekends and bank holidays. During each phase of the lockdown, we have continually reviewed our Risk Assessment and as a team re-organised our provision for the children.

I understand there may be some anxieties for both children and parents who have not been into school since the lockdown commenced in March. As we have successfully remained open since March, admitting more pupils from the 1<sup>st</sup> June, I would hope this would provide reassurance about the return of all pupils at the end of August.

Below you will find the key information you will need in readiness for the new academic year, this has been supplemented by a video which explains the content of the letter in practical terms on the school website:

<https://www.stonebow.leics.sch.uk/page/?title=Welcome+to+School&pid=2772>

## **Staggered arrival/exit times for classes/'bubbles'**

The children will be organised in class/phase 'bubbles'. The staggered start and finish times for these are detailed below:

<b>Year group/class</b>	<b>Entrance/Exit – one parent only to stop at gate – maintain 2m/sign for gate (staff to supervise gates meet/greet escort)</b>
EYFS Class 1	Main gate left EYFS door 8.30am-3pm (line up on smiley faces)
Y1JP Class 3	Main gate right 8.30am-3pm (line up on smiley faces)
Y1CL Class 4	Stonebow Close gate 8.30am/3.00pm (line up on smiley faces)
Y2ST Class 5	Stonebow Close Gate 8.45am/3.15pm (line up on smiley faces)
Y3/4AL Class 7	Main gate right 8.40am/3.10pm (line up on playground)
Y3/4ML Class 8	Main gate left 8.40am/3.10pm (line up on playground)
Y5NA Class 10	Maxwell Drive/Playfit pedestrian via playground/gate 8.50am/3.20pm (line up on playground)
Y5/6RN	Main gate right 8.50am/3.20pm (line up on playground)
Y6BM	Main gate left 8.50am/3.20pm (line up on playground)

Our current staggered starts have run smoothly, we are mindful of parents who have multiple drops to make, the above timings should allow for this. However, please make sure you are on time for arrival and collection. There will be 2m markings on the pavement to help maintain social distancing – along with an indication of which classes need to line up on which side. A polite reminder that you are not allowed on site, without prior arrangement.

At the end of the school day, children will line up inside the school grounds and an adult will dismiss them to the parent/adult collecting them. Any children in upper Key Stage 2 who are given permission to walk home, need to inform their class teacher.

### **During the school day**

The DfE guidance states, *Ideally, adults should maintain 2 metre distance from each other, and from children. We know that this is not always possible, particularly when working with younger children, but if adults can do this when circumstances allow that will help. In particular, they should avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of anyone. Similarly, it will not be possible when working with many pupils who have complex needs or who need close contact care. These pupils' educational and care support should be provided as normal.*

The children will remain within their class 'bubbles' during lesson time. These will be extended to groups within their phase at break time and lunchtime, allowing them to play with a wider group of friends. As we are aware, there is much less chance of transmitting the virus outdoors. Each phase, will have a dedicated area of the playground or field, weather permitting.

### **Lunchtime**

Throughout the pandemic, instead of school hot dinners, we have provided packed lunches with a choice of sandwiches eaten within each bubble's classroom base. This has allowed

staff clean surfaces easily and to avoid large numbers of children passing through the hall, requiring a clean between sittings. This will continue for the foreseeable future. Clare in the kitchen has provided a range of sandwich fillings for the children in the past, along with fruit/veg and a biscuit.

### **Uniform**

During our period of partial opening, both the children and staff have been wearing clothing which was practical and easy to clean/dry on a daily basis – rather than a uniform. The guidance states: *We would encourage all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.* A copy of the uniform policy is included, as a polite reminder to parents.

### **PE**

Following on from the above, to avoid any potential transfer of the virus from mixing up clothing – as frequently happens during PE, we would ask children to arrive at school in their PE kit on their day for PE (Mon – EYFS, Tue – Y3/4, Wed - Y5/6, Thu - Y1/2, Fri Y6). Again, we would like to politely remind parents of the PE kit policy included as part of the uniform policy above. Sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups.

### **Equipment**

Although children are permitted to bring bags into school, we would ask that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials, such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books etc. We will provide essential stationery such as pens and pencils. Unnecessary sharing of items should be avoided.

### **Cleaning**

The site management and cleaning team have done a tremendous job in ensuring that all rooms have been cleaned frequently and meticulously, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, will be used and shared within the bubbles; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, will be cleaned or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use.

### **Attendance expectations**

*From the DfE guidance – Shielding will now pause from 1 August 2020.....Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.*

### **Playfit**

We have kept in touch with Sarah throughout the pandemic. She is hoping to re-start in the new academic year. We will be in consultation to ensure that the breakfast and after school

provision can operate under the guidance of the DfE, working in conjunction with the school. She will be in contact with parents in the near future.

In the meantime, can I please remind parents to download Weduc and/or check your emails regularly for updates, as the school is receiving updated guidance on a daily basis. The office will continue to be available via the above or by telephone in the new academic year, to limit the number of people on site. Visits can be made by appointment only.

If you have any further questions about the return to school in the new year, please don't hesitate to contact me. The school will open for two INSET days on 24th/25th August, with pupils returning on Wednesday 26th August. Have a relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing you all after the holiday.

Yours sincerely

Paul Brockless

Head Teacher