

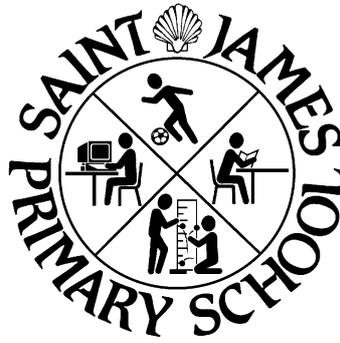
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St. James' Church Of England
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St. James' Church of England Primary School, Handsworth

Monday 13th July, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: School Opening in September

We have missed you all a great deal and while it has been lovely seeing around 80 children back in school it is still very quiet. We hope you have all stayed safe and that you have managed to get something positive from this truly awful situation.

You will be aware that the Government have said schools can open from the Autumn term in September. I will detail some of the measures we are taking below and a draft timetable to open in September with caution. Most importantly we want to make sure everything is as safe as possible for the children and the families as they come on to the school site. We will update the website on the 1st September, taking into account the latest information and send you emails and messages closer to the start dates so that you get all the information you need. For families who are still concerned and worried we will talk to individually during the first few weeks of term to see how we can help – we know many of you have shielded due to family members and as yet we don't know what this look like in September.

In September, the front of school will look different as the council and Engie are repairing the wall. This means access will be confusing – we aim to staff this and introduce a oneway system so you will come in up the ramp and then out another exit point through the car park. This should keep you all safely distanced from each other. This is not the best timing for the work and I have tried to get it moved. Together we can make it work.

Bringing more children and families back to school is complicated, so we have started with the year groups we have not seen at all in the juniors. We will be using both entrances off the playground so that Year 3 and 4 use the first door and the older children use the door at the top of the playground.

Start Dates in September * Staff will be on hand to direct you to the right entrance.

New classes in Year 3 and Year 5 return on Thursday 3rd September – Between 8.45 – 9.05

New classes in Year 4 and Year 6 return on Friday 4th September – Between 8.45 - 9.05

New classes in Year 1 and Year 2 return on Monday 7th September – Between 8.35 – 8.50

Collection times

Year 1 and 2 – From class doors from 3.05pm

Year 3 and 5 – From bottom and top doors on to playground from 3.15pm

Year 4 and 6 – From bottom and top doors on to playground from 3.25pm

Let your light shine

Please stand back if it looks busy and we won't close the register until 9.30 for the first few weeks while we get used to new routines.

Below are some of the measures we will be taking;

- **Keeping children in one class / not mixing with other year groups.**
- **Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times**
- **Increased cleaning**
- **Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home** – if anyone in your household has symptoms of a temperature, a new cough, loss of sense of smell/taste then you must arrange for a test so that we can take measures to protect the class.
- **Ensuring staff have personal protective equipment**
- **Limiting parent access to school**
- **Lessons being taught outside as much as possible**
- **Ensuring we have enough available staff to support children**
- **Provide hand sanitizer stations at entrance points**
- **No resources from home to come to school**

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home and we will continue to support you with this. The plans for opening in September included preparation of home learning packs and online teaching from our teachers, this hopefully will support you through any local lock downs or class isolation periods if we get a positive test.

I am enclosing a guidance document that answers lots of questions. In September we will not be having a breakfast club as too many classes mix at this point. If you can register your interest in a place with the school office, we will try to open this at a later date for the classes where we have the most need. It is important that we all try to remain flexible and get through this pandemic so that we all get safely to next year. I am really hoping that this is for one term.

Please enjoy your summer and we look forward to welcoming you back in September. If you have any more questions we will be in school at the end of August and we will try to answer them. We are planning for something we have never done before so if we all pull together and give each other space to move around we can hopefully get through this.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Cross
Head Teacher