Christ Church Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs Philippa Foster

September update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to confirm that Christ Church Academy will open for all pupils from Monday 7th September. The children must attend school on a full time basis and we are really looking forward to seeing them all each day. There will be some differences to routines so that we can look after everyone’s health and safety while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community.

Following government guidance to reduce contact between children, we will be largely keeping classes/bubbles of children (approx. 30 children) together in the same room with the same members of staff. Teachers/adults will remain at a distance wherever possible and children (with the exception of nursery and reception) will be seated with forward facing desks. It is important for us to deliver a wide and rich curriculum to the children and therefore, teachers may move between class bubbles. Those teachers will remain at a distance of 2m where possible and will follow strict hygiene regimes.

In line with guidance it will also be necessary, at times, for small, consistent groups of children from different class bubbles to come together. For example, for phonics teaching, small group work and before and after school childcare. Wherever possible children from different bubbles will be encouraged to socially distance.

**System of controls**

This is the set of actions the government says, that schools must take. They are grouped into ‘prevention’ and ‘response to any infection’.

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.

**Other Measures**

Groups should be kept apart, meaning that we will avoid large gatherings such as assemblies, collective worship and performances. Visitors to the school will remain limited, and by appointment only. Teachers will meet parents and children at the school gates so that parents do not need to come onto school grounds. So that the number of people gathering around school is kept to a minimum, each class will have a 5 minute drop off and pick up time slot. It is important that families stick to these and wait well away from the gates. A timetable of drop off and pick up times and staffing for September is attached.

**Uniform**

All children will be expected to wear normal uniform from September 7th.

**Water Bottles**

We will provide each child with a water bottle. We ask that these go home to be washed and refilled with **water** each day.

**P. E. Kit**

To minimise equipment being brought into school, on the days that children have PE, they should come to school in their full PE kit and remain in this for the duration of the day. Please ensure that your child is dressed in the specified sports uniform and has a jumper if necessary. Outdoor sport will be prioritised. Swimming will resume in the Autumn term and further information about this will be sent home nearer the time.

**Extra-Curricular Provision**

We will not be taking part in any visits away from the school site until at least October half term. The risks presented beyond our control and away from the school site are not likely to outweigh the benefit of such a trip. This will be regularly reviewed.

**Jelly Beans**

We will offer our normal Jelly Beans service from Monday 7th September.

**Lunchtimes**

We will stagger lunchtimes to make sure that only two classes, with a gap between them, use the hall at any one time. The school kitchen will provide hot dinners as normal from 7th September.

We will let you know as soon as possible if changes to government guidance mean that any of our arrangements change. Thank you for your invaluable support over this period of uncertainty and change. We have been overwhelmed by your kindness and support. We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school in September.

Yours Sincerely,

Philippa Foster

Headteacher