



**Sandiway Primary School**  
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Headteacher: Mr C Priddey

27/9/20

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

As promised, a further update before the return to school on Wednesday.

I have also made a short video to explain some of the arrangements and to show how the classrooms are set up. You can view the video by clicking this link: <https://youtu.be/7GSvONdgybE>

I have had a few enquiries regarding the **staggered drop off/collection times** where families have more than one child in the school. I understand that the staggered start and end of the day means that some families may have to wait for 10-20 minutes; this is an unfortunate impact of having to make the staggered starts and ends. I have done my best to reduce this time to ten-minute slots – as the weeks progress, we may be able to further refine the beginning and end of the day. At this stage, however, I need to have these timings to manage the logistics of the numbers of people on and off the school site. The ten-minute windows are also determined by the time it takes 30 children to wash their hands for 20 seconds each. If parents have to drop children earlier or later, they could be accommodated in The Club, who will also be managing children getting to classes at the correct times.

I know that some parents will be concerned about not getting too close to other families if they do need to wait for the different start/end times. We are lucky in our school setting to have a good-sized car park and plenty of open space. I am more than happy for parents to find an area of the playground to wait, wait in cars or in any other outdoor space that is available that is a good distance from others. Please keep your family standing next to you and prevent them from playing football/games, playing in the wild area, etc.

I have also had enquires **regarding other parents or grandparents collecting children**. Other Headteachers in Cheshire West and Chester have also been discussing this; guidance has been issued from CWaC, in consultation with Public Health England and using the Government's guidance. I have pasted the message received below for your own interpretation of the information and how this fits with your own family situations:

#### **Childcare**

*Unless grandparents are part of a support bubble\* they should maintain two metre social distancing where possible from their grandchildren. One household is permitted to visit another household indoors in England (unless local restrictions apply), but two metre social distancing should be maintained. It would be possible for childcare to be delivered before and after school in these circumstances if the grandchildren do not require any close contact as part of the childcare. If grandparents are part of a support bubble they can provide childcare and transport to and from school without having to maintain two metre social distancing.*

#### **Active Travel**

*The Council are encouraging Active Travel for all pupils returning to school, with pupils encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school where feasible, particularly where they live within 3 miles of school. It is possible for grandparents to supervise their grandchildren to participate in Active Travel whilst maintaining two metre social distancing on the journey to and from school.*

#### **Travelling by car**

*National guidance 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers' <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#private->*



[cars-and-other-vehicles](#) advises you should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your support bubble. If there is no-one within the household who can take your child to school you need to, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time – this means only using one grandparent to undertake all the journeys rather than rotating
- keep to small groups of people at any one time – so only one grandparent and the grandchildren from one household should travel in the car
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering

It is important that you advise the driver of any arrangements your child's school has made for car drop-offs and pick-ups.

*\*A support bubble is where people who live alone (or just with their children) meet people from one other household*

I fully understand that some of the procedures that are necessary are not convenient for parents getting to/from work – I have tried to minimise this as much as possible. However, I have a duty to follow the guidance and ensure that the school is a safe place for all members of the school community (children, parents, staff and visitors). As I have said, we may be able to review the procedures as time passes; equally parents will start to get used to the procedures and find ways to work around them. **My priority is to keep the school safely open for all children as much as possible** – the measures are in place to this end.

On the **matter of face coverings**, this seems to be a matter that has had changes made since the original guidance has been sent out and most recently this week. Primary schools seem to be less affected in the guidance, unless our school becomes subject to a local lockdown. The guidance gives leaders the responsibility to make decisions about wearing of face coverings, especially where other measures are harder to implement, e.g. when corridors are very narrow. You will note that in my procedures document, I have stated that face coverings can be worn to/from school by children. Equally, there are some members of staff who will be wearing them for a variety of reasons. It can be argued that it is impractical for teachers to wear them as when teaching, but there may be situations where staff feel happier to wear them, for example needing to be closer to other people, meeting with visitors, etc. Parents may also choose to wear face coverings for the collection and drop off times. To summarise, face coverings are not required in our school setting, but individual circumstances may mean that they can be worn – we will keep this under review.

As I have said, **PE kits** will be worn by the children on the days which they have a planned PE session. I have asked the teachers to plan more PE this year as part of our recovery curriculum and to enhance physical/mental wellbeing. This will either be longer PE sessions or additional PE sessions. The table below indicates the PE days for the children, which will include the first week. Teachers will let you know about any changes to the days that may have to be made.

Year group	Planned PE days – children to come into school in PE kits
Reception	Tuesday and Friday**
Year 1	Monday and Tuesday
Year 2	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Year 3	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 5	Thursday and Friday
Year 6	Monday and Wednesday

\*\* Reception will be starting their PE sessions when they all start full time w/b 14/9/20, until then, they need to be in school uniform each day.

Other than this, we are very much looking forward to seeing the children back in school on Wednesday morning and welcoming our new Reception children over the first week and a half. The staff have been busy over the holidays preparing some great work for the children and we are looking forward to getting back to the job we love doing.

As always, if you have any questions/queries, please contact me by email [head@sandiway.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@sandiway.cheshire.sch.uk) or the school by phone on 01606 883298.

Best wishes, Chris Priddey