

31 August 2021

Dear Parents

May I start with a huge welcome back to you all for what I hope will be an exciting and exhilarating educational experience for all. Following the COVID pandemic our aim is to continue to provide a high quality face to face education for all children whilst at the same time balance and manage all the risks in order to experience as near normal a life experience.

Following government advice our Step 4 changes to COVID response measures dispenses with bubbles, social distancing, phased drop off and pick up and the wearing of face masks. The school will no longer be responsible for tracing and identifying potentially infectious children or groups (NHS Test and Trace will do this). Symptomatic children will still need to isolate in line with current guidance and should not attend school. Identified close contact children and those who are fully vaccinated will not have to isolate but will be expected to take a PCR test to evidence non-infection. So long as these children are asymptomatic they will not have to self-isolate whilst awaiting their PCR test. Symptomatic children will still be sent home and be required to take a PCR Test and those who record a positive test will have to isolate. Please however, **do not send your children into school if they are unwell** for this will be the most effective way to keep infection down and the school open.

The school will ensure that the classrooms have good ventilation especially where singing, shouting and exercise might be taking place. The classrooms will be cleaned on a daily basis and there will be a strong emphasis on good hygiene and hand washing. Over the Summer all rooms were given a very deep clean.

Whilst St Faith's is promoting vaccination and testing for all staff there are still some who have not been vaccinated and the vast majority will require their booster soon, and for that reason parents will still be discouraged from entering classrooms. For Year's 3-6 Drop and Go will continue in Guilford Hall from 7.40 and Early Morning Drop Off for all will continue as last term with parents delivering their children to myself in the playground from 08.00 where they will make their own way to class for Study Skills or be attended to by a member of staff on the tennis court (in wet weather in will be held in Kerruish Hall). Parents may escort nursery children to their rooms to handover to staff and pick up but must not enter.

At the end of the day children will not be brought out to the car park and parents may return to the procedure of collecting their children from outside their classroom or club room but must not enter the rooms.

For the first day and week of term parents of Reception children are to park on the sports field and escort their children to their respective Reception classrooms where their teachers will welcome them.

For the first day of term parents of new children are to park on the sports field and follow the instructions sent in your welcome letter issued by Julie Haywood.

Sport will continue as normal and parents may return to the side lines to support the teams for the home matches. For away matches we will have to follow guidance from the host schools. For children who have sport on any given day they may wear their sports kit into school for the day.

Whole School Assemblies will return but for the meanwhile parents are not to attend and these events will continue to be streamed live. Music will continue as normal and we hope that parents will be allowed to return to watch the live performances and we will update you on this in the weeks to come.

Class expeditions and UK residential will continue as normal until further notice. Overseas trips have all been booked but we are unsure as to whether or not these will be able to go ahead. We will of course keep you well informed of any developments.

Parents may visit the office but please only one at a time. Live meetings can be accessed with myself or the staff should you have any concerns but preferably by appointment. I do however, have an open-door policy and would welcome you at any time should you have any urgency. Any parent attending a live meeting indoors are requested to wear a mask.

Please do ensure that your children return with the correct uniform for the start of the school year. Uniform empowers a sense of belonging, pride, collaboration and discipline and we are all keen to build these virtuous qualities once again with your children which has lapsed during the pandemic. We will of course be understanding if any items are on order and can't be worn for the beginning of term.

St Faith's will have an Outbreak Management Strategy in place should infection return to an alarming rate and we will announce any resumption to COVID protocols immediately for you all to follow.

The Teacher/Parent introduction meeting on 15/16 September will be managed online, and a further letter will be issued nearer the time to brief you on the process that will need to be followed.

The staff and I are extremely excited about the return of your children and normal activity, and are desperate to maintain the safe and happy environment we have all grown to love at St Faith's. May I end by thanking you all for your support, loyalty and your lovely children.

Best wishes



Lawrence B R Groves
Headmaster