

Littleham

Church of England Primary School



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Katie Gray

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Dear Parents/Carers,

10 July 2020

In response to the new government guidance, I am writing to you to explain our school organisation from Monday 7th September 2020. Throughout the Covid Pandemic, we have ensured that the safety of the staff and children are paramount in our considerations and subsequent plans. I wish to assure you that this will continue to be our priority as the government lessens the lockdown restrictions.

From the start of term, all children will be expected to return to school. The government is clear that attendance is compulsory and that all children will be expected to attend full-time schooling unless there are exceptional medical circumstances. This means that from September, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

The government guidance is clear that *'shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding'*.

We will carry out individual risk assessments for those children who are classed as highly critically vulnerable, in partnership with parents, prior to them returning to school in September.

At Littleham C of E, we will be working in whole year group 'bubbles' as this will enable us to function effectively as a school and offer a broad, high quality education to all of our pupils. Class bubbles will be maintained within the school. During breaktimes children will stay with their year group bubbles and will continue to eat lunches within the classroom.

Social distancing will be encouraged, with teachers of most pupils teaching from the front of the class and children facing forward at their tables. This, of course, will not be possible for our younger children, although regular handwashing and cleaning of the classroom environment and equipment will be in place. Each child will have their own set of regularly used resources.

When arriving and leaving the school, a staggered start and exit will ensure that the children remain distanced as much as possible.

Although this has no doubt been a time of challenge and great uncertainty for us all, I am deeply proud of the way in which we, as a federation, have responded during the crisis. This is not only due to the dedication of the school staff and governors, but most importantly, the support you have provided for your children throughout the lockdown period.

Thank you so much. We all look forward to welcoming the children back to school in September.

Yours sincerely

Katie Gray
Executive Headteacher