**Littleham**



**Church of England Primary School**

*Executive Headteacher: Mrs Katie Gray*

*🕿01395 266535* *admin@littleham.devon.sch.uk* *www.littleham.devon.sch.uk*

Wednesday 3rd March

Dear Parents

We are very excited to be welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 8th March. All the staff are really looking forward to having the buzz of the whole school back in the building and to interact with the children’s learning in reality – not just via a screen or paper pack!

Whilst school is returning to some sort of normality, we still have to be mindful that the rest of the country continues to be in lockdown and so we still need to be highly conscious of Covid safety procedures. I wish to assure you that the safety of our pupils and staff will continue to be our priority.

**Attendance**

From the 8th March, **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 for the pupil themselves. This means that from March 8th, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

**General Arrangements**

The routines will be very much like they were in September. Children will work in bubbles within school, we still can’t hold whole school assemblies or eat together in the dining hall. We will continue to ensure we have regular time slots for washing hands and individual sets of school resources will be put in place to limit cross-contamination. Children are not to wear masks in school. If you want them to wear one on their journey to school please ensure you take it from your child at the gate and take it home with you, or dispose of it safely.

**Drop off / Pick up**

In a similar way to the Autumn Term we will have staggered starts and end times so that large groups of children arriving at one time is minimised and the children and yourselves, as parents, remain distanced as much as possible. We politely ask that you respect these times. We appreciate parents also haven’t seen each other for many weeks and months, however, **school drop off and pick up must not be used as an opportunity for socialising**.

Please arrive at the appropriate time for your bubble – not early or late. We have been noticing families waiting outside from 8.30am during lockdown. This causes road safety issues with staff cars coming in and out of the drive and we have also had complaints from the neighbours about people congregating for long periods of time.

When you arrive for your bubble timeslot **please ensure you stand 2m apart** – there will be signs to help with this spread out across the fence. Only **1 parent should come to school** to accompany their children. **Parents should supervise their children** whilst they wait for the bubble to enter school, and ensure children stand next to them and **don’t run into the road** or move closer to other families. **All parents should wear a mask** whilst queueing – unless they are exempt.

As soon as your child has safely entered the school grounds with a member of school staff you should cross the road and walk back out of the close on the opposite side to school. **Do not stay near to the gate to chat to other parents.**  We ask that children don’t mix with their peers from other bubbles after school.

As has always been the case, **no cars should enter Littledown Close**. Everyone should park on the main road or ideally walk to school. The only exceptions to this are Devon County School Transport taxis and parents/carers who have a disability and have made an arrangement with Mrs Padbury. They are being given a different bubble drop off time to ensure road safety.

**Bubble Times**

The bubble times are as follows:

Morning

8.50 start for all children (Nursery to Year 6) who have a sibling.

9.00 start for all children with no sibling.

9.10 children arriving by school transport or families with a disability who have spoken to Mrs Padbury.

Afternoon

3.00 finish for all children who have a sibling.

3.10 finish for all children with no sibling.

3.20 children being collected by school transport or families with a disability who have spoken to Mrs Padbury.

**Lunches**

From Monday the school kitchen will be able to provide meals for all those pupils who book a lunch – no more hampers will be provided for those in receipt of free school meals. Children who don’t wish to have a school meal can bring a packed lunch as usual.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club continues to be available – please phone the school office for further information.

**Covid Health Concerns**

In order to keep our community as safe as possible, please ensure that if your child seems at all unwell that you keep them home from school and notify us immediately. If they show symptoms such as a high temperature or a new persistent cough, or loss of smell or taste then you should arrange for your child to have a Covid test.

It has recently been announced that families of primary aged children can order home testing kits to use twice weekly for people who don’t have symptoms. The details for how to access this is included below.

These can be accessed;

* through your employer if they offer testing to employees
* at a local test site
* by collecting a home test kit from a test site
* by ordering a home test kit online

**Get a test through your employer**

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

**Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site**

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site](https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/).

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**Collect test kits**

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point](https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/).

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**Order home test kits online**

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

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**Uniform**

When children return on 8th March all pupils should come to school in their school uniform. However, the doors and windows will be open during the day to increase ventilation in the classrooms and so your children may need to wear additional layers or bring in another jumper (in addition to their school jumper) to keep warm– this doesn’t need to be a school jumper but should be as plain as possible. You will receive a text informing you of PE/Forest School days. On these days children will come to school in PE kit with a school jumper to avoid having to change in school.

**Chromebooks**

Please could we also ask that any chromebooks that have been borrowed from school are returned to school by Friday March 12th. You will need to sign that you have returned these and so we would appreciate that these are not brought back to school at drop off or pick up, but that you bring them to school during the school day and the admin team will support you with the paperwork. If this is a problem please phone the office who will make another arrangement with you.

**Reading Books**

Please remember to return school reading books that you have borrowed during lockdown, or read during the Autumn Term.

Although this has been a time of great challenge and uncertainty for all of us, 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 to the support you have provided for your children and the resilience of the pupils themselves throughout the lockdown periods. Thank you all so much.

Yours sincerely

Katie Gray

Executive Headteacher