



Droxford Junior School
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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

Thursday 9th July 2020

Dear Parents

As I mentioned last week, the Government released extensive guidance for all school types to fully reopen in September. We are delighted this is the case and will be thrilled to see all children in school after the summer break. I said, after desciminating the guidance, I would share with you the implications and quotes from the guidance. The Government state...

Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), and this guidance explains the steps schools need to take to reduce risks still further. As a result, we can plan for all children to return and start to reverse the enormous costs of missed education. This will be an important move back towards normal life for many children and families.

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.

The following information is taken from the guidance and how it will impact Droxford Junior School in September and therefore important for parents, staff and governors to know and understand:

- Every child in every year group will return to school on Thursday 3rd September.
- There will be no social distancing within their groups for children in school, as there will be 30 to 31 pupils in a classroom.
- Extensive Covid-19 risk assessments enhanced and further measures, including maintaining the increased hygiene regimes will remain in place.
- School staff maintaining the increased levels of duties before, during and after school in terms of guiding the children to, from and around the school safely – including meeting the children from the bus and returning them to the bus at the end of the day.
- Children will be put in fixed groups (or bubbles) with no (as best as possible) contact between groups. These groups will be Years 3 / 4 (Droxford, Hambledon & Meonstoke Bases) and Years 5 / 6 (Exton, Soberton & Newtown Bases). We will also endeavour to limit the contact between classes in each year group.
- Classrooms will have forward facing desks where possible.
- Staff will maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible.
- Staggered start and finish times will not be needed at Droxford as there is a natural filter of children entering and exiting the school due to the nature of transport to the school. Therefore school times are 9 – 3:30 as per normal.



- It will be compulsory for all pupils who are well to attend school and we will return to wearing school uniform. This can be acquired from Skoolkit 149 West Street, Fareham, PO16 0YA Website www.skoolkit.co.uk
- The Government are reintroducing the fining system for non attendance that will be required by the Local Authority.
- Breakfast Club will return but will be limited to 20 children. The hall will be split into two halves – one for Year 3 / 4 and one for Year 5 / 6 children.
- Dinners will resume as normal with lunches cooked on site and ordered in the normal way. Menus to follow. The hall will be divided in two halves to accommodate the two groups (3 / 4 and 5 / 6). Children with own packed lunches will eat in their classrooms. If the weather is fine children will eat outside.
- Library will be in operation, books can go home (but we will limit what does go home and comes back in to school i.e. library book, reading log, times table and homework books will be allowed).
- After school clubs will resume in the Autumn term – each club being for just one fixed group where possible. Mr Banham will be sending details before the summer break. As we cannot have the usual providers in school we will be operating all clubs run by staff.
- Parents / visitors are not allowed on site unless there is an emergency or a special meeting has been pre-arranged. Please continue to e-mail or call us if you ever need to and please read the newsletter and schools communications as these may well answer your question.
- For the time being there will be no large scale school events. This will mean no Year 3 Parent induction morning; no Christmas Services, no FODS events and we will have to rethink Parents Evenings. All very sad. It will also mean a whole year without any fundraising!
- We will not be having whole school assemblies.
- The designated school bus system will operate fully again. Children will be sat in their groups on the bus and hand sanitisers available. **Please let Hampshire Transport know if you require your child to use the bus at any point.** It will be for Hampshire Transport to organise the number of buses with the bus companies and this data will be important to them and yourselves when getting bus passes. Tel No. 01962 846924
- Day trips will be going ahead; we will know more about residential in September.
- The Droxford curriculum 'offer' will be the same for all children - you will get more details about what your children will be learning shortly.
- We will teacher assess children in the first half term, through classroom teacher assessments in order to identify gaps and support and challenge accordingly.

Within the guidance from the Government there is an expectation that schools communicate clearly with staff, parents and governors - by keeping you fully informed via communications such as this; weekly newsletters; the school office and the website, Government requirements will be met at our school.

Hopefully this covers any questions you may have. We will endeavour to keep you informed with further back to school plans for September in due course.

Best wishes



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

School Vision: 'Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully'.

