

# Newsletter

## 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

### Information and Updates

Welcome back! We do hope that you have all enjoyed half term despite the rather wet and windy weather!

We would like to start by **thanking you**, once again, for the ways in which you supported the school over the first term. We are very pleased that we were able to get through the 8 weeks with minimal disruption to learning and we are very grateful to everyone for your support and solidarity at this challenging time.

#### November Lockdown

Following the news, over the weekend, of the November lockdown, we know that Term 2 will present further challenges for everyone. However, with your continued support we will do all that we can to support children, staff and families through this difficult time. We are very pleased that schools will remain open and will continue to do all that we can to keep everyone learning, safely. It will, undoubtedly mean, that many of our usual events in this Christmas term will not be able to go ahead but we will let you know alternative plans as the term progresses.

As always, we will be relying on your continued support to ensure that all the systems and procedures that we have in place, run smoothly. Please remember that these are in place to ensure the safety of **all of our 630 pupils and the staff who work with them**, and we would ask that you read, and follow, the information below at all times.

*Our risk assessment has been reviewed again and you can find an updated copy of this on our website.*

#### Staggered Drop Offs and Pick Ups

We will be continuing with our very well-embedded drop off and pick-up routines as these are integral to ensuring that we can manage having over 1000 adults and children on site whilst minimising contact and enabling social distancing. After our confirmed Covid case last term, we were told by the Department of Education that a 'close contact' is someone who has been closer than 1m for 1 minute or more or between 1 – 2m away for 15 minutes. This is both inside and outside. It is very easy to stand this close to another person without realising – so please be careful to socially distance around school.

Please help us by:

- Dropping off/collecting at the correct time
- Following all our one-way systems
- Keeping your child/children next to you and maintaining social distance between yourselves and other families - this is especially important whilst you are waiting to come into school
- Wearing a face covering
- Just having **ONE** adult dropping off/collecting to minimise the number of adults we have in the waiting zone and walking around the site
- Staying outside the class bubble areas (red and white chains or playground markings) when collecting and dropping off
- Ensuring that your child always wears a suitable raincoat to school

## Parking

Please remember that you should NOT drive down Hallett's Way unless you have a blue badge and have agreed this with the school. Also, please continue to park considerately in the roads around the school, being mindful of our neighbours' driveways and the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

## Uniform

In reviewing the school's risk assessment for the winter months, we have received advice from the DFE that ventilation in classrooms remains one of the most important measures to reduce the risk of the transmission of the virus. In order to ensure that your child stays warm in the classroom, we recommend that they wear additional layers of clothing when the weather is cold e.g.

- Vests/t-shirts /long sleeved tops under normal school polo shirts
- School jumper and fleece
- Trousers or – if wearing a skirt - wear tights or dark leggings underneath
- A warm and waterproof coat to wear when we are outside, especially if you have to wait between drop offs/ pick ups

If you need any additional uniform e.g. jumpers, fleeces etc there is stock available at The Sports Shop on the High Street. If you would like to place any orders directly, please email [TSSPortishead@gmail.com](mailto:TSSPortishead@gmail.com) Please leave your name, school name and phone number and they will get back to you to arrange your order and collection/delivery.

## Lunchtimes

As we move into term 2, children will be eating their lunches in the classrooms for the majority of the time. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please help us by:

- Ensuring that all items in the lunchbox can be **easily opened by YOUR CHILD** so lunch staff do not have to do this for them and break social distancing guidelines

## Playtimes

Whenever the weather allows, we will be going outside at playtimes. Please help us by:

- Ensuring that your child always wears a suitable outdoor coat to school (a fleece alone is not sufficient)
- Sending your child in with a hat/scarf when the weather is colder

## PE

We are very fortunate to have a skilled team of sports coaches who deliver our PE lessons and encourage our children to be active and healthy. In order to minimise risk of transmission of Covid, whenever possible PE lessons will take place outside and when this is not possible, we will use large well-ventilated hall spaces for class bubbles. As we are now heading into the winter months, please ensure that your child comes to school wearing appropriate PE kit on their allocated day. This should include:

- Joggers or long leggings
- Warm socks and trainers
- Lots of top layers e.g., vest/red t-shirt/jumper & fleece
- Hat and gloves if the weather looks particularly cold
- Warm, waterproof coat

## Communication with Teachers

We have continued to use the year group emails as a means of essential communication with teachers. We have noticed that some parents and year groups are using this more than others and request that you consider if it is essential that you contact staff using this email. As we have previously said, we will not always reply to emails if information has been previously shared in order to protect staff time. If it is an enquiry about general procedures, or a message that needs to be relayed with urgency, it may be more appropriate to email the general school email rather than class teachers: [enquiries@sppschoool.uk](mailto:enquiries@sppschoool.uk).

## Covid Symptoms – A reminder of our systems and procedures

Government guidance remains that anyone displaying one of the three relevant symptoms should self-isolate (with all members of their household) for 10 days from the onset of symptoms (14 for household members) until they can get a test.

### Symptoms are:

- a high temperature (37.8 C or higher)
- a new, continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell (they cannot taste or smell anything, or things smell or taste very different to normal)

It is essential that you do not send your child into school if they, or anyone in their household, have any of these symptoms. Only the person displaying symptoms should be tested. There is no need for others in the household to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Tests can be booked online or by phoning 119. Once negative tests are received for any symptomatic household members then any children may return to school. The full 'Stay at Home guidance for households' can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### Children who become unwell at school:

- If your child is displaying possible Covid symptoms in school, we have clear isolation and monitoring procedures in place before ringing parents to take them home. This ensures we are not sending home children unnecessarily.
- If your child is symptomatic, they cannot remain in school for the safety of other children and staff. Parents must come immediately to collect children – we cannot isolate them for an entire day.
- They can only return to school once they have a negative test result or have completed 10 days self-isolation. They cannot return to school if their symptoms reduce or end and we cannot accept parent/carer self-diagnosis of the symptoms not being Covid related - this must be made by a Covid test.

We will of course keep you updated of any positive cases in school and, where this affects your child, we will advise you of any action that is needed. We have been informed of one positive case, of a member of staff, over half term but there has been no need to identify their close contacts at school as they did not display any symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. In every case, we work closely with the DFE, and Public Health England, and follow all their advice and procedures so please be assured that we are doing all we can to keep everyone in our school community safe.

## Reporting Absences

Like most schools we are experiencing slightly more absences than normal at the moment. Please ensure you ring the absence line or email [attendance@sppschoo.uk](mailto:attendance@sppschoo.uk) by 9am to inform us if your child is away from school. This saves valuable staff time.

If your child has been absent whilst waiting for a test result etc, please inform us by 4pm via the Welcome Desk or [attendance@sppschoo.uk](mailto:attendance@sppschoo.uk) for them to return the next day. This enables staff to be ready to welcome them back.

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## Reminders about Remote Learning and Accessing Teams

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Given the national picture, we must expect that more cases will occur in our community, including at school. This is likely to cause disruption to some individuals, groups, or even whole class bubbles. We have clear plans in place for this to ensure that the disruption to learning is as minimal as possible. It is important that you have access to your child's TEAMS accounts and know what to expect from our home-learning offer, should that circumstance arise.

### Accessing Teams

All children now have access to their Teams account. If you are having problems or have lost your login details, please contact the Welcome Desk via phone or email so they can help you. This can take some days to resolve so please do this sooner rather than later.

### Remote Learning

We have a full set of lessons available for children in Reception to Year 6 who are away from school with Covid related absences (if they are well enough to complete work). All work is shared on Teams in their year group team and there are assignments for them to submit completed work is they are absent 5 days or more. This short film explains how to access work:

<https://www.loom.com/share/7ba7af77f1294e6dbd337e5d2dec71d0>

Our full plans and procedures for remote learning for Covid related absences (individual pupil's absent, class/ bubble, year groups, whole school closures) can be found on our website.

This learning is for children who are not attending school for Covid related reasons and are well enough to work e.g. household is self-isolating, waiting for a test result. If your child is ill and is not well enough to come to school, we do not expect them to complete any remote learning.

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**Finally, thank you once again for your ongoing support at this very busy and challenging time. We are staying cautious, but positive, and will continue to do all we can to give your children the best possible educational and pastoral care. Although we don't know how things will develop over the next few months, we believe that the last few months has shown us the power of working closely together for the benefit of everyone in our community, which it remains a privilege to serve at such an important time.**

**Email: [enquiries@sppschoo.uk](mailto:enquiries@sppschoo.uk)**

**Website: [www.st-peters.n-somerset.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters.n-somerset.sch.uk) Facebook: [@sppschoolportishead](https://www.facebook.com/sppschoolportishead)**