

West Tytherley CE Primary Update

Autumn Term No.1

Sept 2020

Message from the Head – Mr Warren

Welcome back to West Tytherley CE Primary. I very much hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing and fun time over the Summer with your family and friends.

Last year, was very disrupted for us all as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. During lockdown – we had to learn from home and then some of us were allowed to return to school, whilst others couldn't. It has been quite a challenge and I'd like to thank you for being 'Resilient Rhinos' – persevering when the going gets tough. Having time on your hands, after you had completed your home learning, has meant that you had to create new and enjoyable things to do. You certainly were 'Resourceful Robins' then! Well we are all looking forward to returning to school. We've missed our friends and learning with our teachers.

In school, we have been busy preparing for your return and like you, are excited about starting back. The school grounds look amazing after having had a magical makeover with the help of our PTA, parents and community volunteers from Mountbatten. You will really enjoy being in our school ground for your learning and play.

We also want you to feel relaxed and safe in school. Whilst we still need to have rules and expectations for your learning and behaviour, we also need to ensure that we keep ourselves clean (by washing our hands regularly) and try to maintain social distances (particularly with adults). This will help us all to keep safe and stop coronavirus from spreading. We want your experience in school to be as 'normal' as it can be this year.

The school is closed on Thurs 3rd Sept and Friday 4th Sept. Pupils in Years 1-6 will return to on Monday 7th Sept. Our new pupils in Reception will join us on Thurs 10th and Fri 11th for a 'Stay and Play' session. Please refer to our school calendar for further information.

<https://west-tytherley.hants.sch.uk/calendar?view=calendar&month=09-2020>

Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Inset Days for 20/21

Inset dates have now been set for: **Thurs 3rd Sept, Fri 4th Sept, Mon 2nd Nov, Fri 29th Jan and Mon 28th June.** Please make a note of these in your diary.

Summer Learning Focus : Summer in a Box

At the beginning of the summer holidays, we asked you to prepare a box that included things from your summer holiday. If you haven't, please take time preparing this for the start of the Autumn term. For further information, check out our blog:

<https://west-tytherley.hants.sch.uk/summer-in-a-box>

Risk Assessment – Briefing for Parents in anticipation of September 2020 full opening of school

This is a brief summary of how we will be minimising the risk of a Covid 19 outbreak in the school and how you can help us too.

There is not a “one size fits all” in this next phase of full opening. All schools need to consider their own context and needs of their community. There are four statutory obligations that relate to all schools however and these have been outlined below.

These preventative measures are:

1. **Minimise contact** with individuals who are unwell and ensuring that they do not attend school
2. **Clean hands thoroughly** more often than usual
3. **Ensure good respiratory hygiene** practices
4. **Introduce enhanced cleaning**

What the school is doing:

- ✓ Handwashing routines – on entry to school, after play, before and after lunch as well as of course after using the toilets. All classes will have a sanitation ‘snuffle’ station to help with this and to avoid congestion in toilet blocks.
- ✓ Catch it kill it bin it routines to ensure good respiratory hygiene
- ✓ Having enhanced cleaning of surfaces undertaken throughout the day
- ✓ Minimising sharing of items or items coming in from homes.
- ✓ Since we are small in number, we are maintain a ‘whole school’ bubble rather than individual bubbles. This has also been necessitated since there are many families that have siblings in each class and therefore establishing small bubbles wouldn’t prevent the transmission of the virus across the school.
- ✓ Maintaining a one way system for drop of and pick up of children by parents and 2m social distancing enforced.
- ✓ Maintaining two sitting for lunches in the dining hall/playground to avoid congestion in communal spaces
- ✓ No church gatherings of the whole school until further notice
- ✓ Limit attendance of visiting parents to celebration assemblies (parents will be invited by school at attend)
- ✓ Making more use of the outdoor environment to reduce risks of transmission and promote health
- ✓ Teaching pupils explicit skills for wellbeing on a weekly basis
- ✓ Providing PPE for those staff that may need to engage in close contact eg. physiotherapy/first aid/complex need support with pupils
- ✓ Encouraging children to be aware of their space and encouraging social distancing where this is practicable
- ✓ Ventilating rooms and thinking carefully about the organisation and layout of the classroom to minimise risks of catching and spreading the virus.
- ✓ Reviewing risk assessment, following best practice guidance from Public Health England, DFE and the Local Authority
- ✓ Exploring opportunities to run staff meetings, workshops and other meetings using remote technologies as a means of communicating whilst maintaining social distance practices
- ✓ Ensuring that all staff understand the risk assessment and how it applies to their working practices
- ✓ Ensuring that parents can contact the school in a timely manner to communicate information regarding suspected cases of coronavirus and to provide clear next steps to parents based on best practice guidance at all times

Risk Assessment – working in partnership with the school: How parents can help:

- ✓ Talk positively about the return to school – do not assume that children will be anxious and do not feed anxiety by using leading questions like “What are you worried about when going to school?”. Children are generally very resilient and most of the children who have attended school have been very happy to be at school. They know things are a little different because we need to keep safe but explaining these differences factually is important without assuming it will be a “problem” for the child. Children pick up on our emotions and feelings very easily so projecting excitement and confidence when going back to school is vital.
- ✓ Keep children at home if they have coronavirus symptoms and get them tested quickly. Self-isolate for at least 10 days if they have tested positive for coronavirus. All other members of the household self-isolating for 14 days. Please call the school to tell us if a child is unwell on any school day! Any pupils who are unwell, for any reason, should not be sent into school until they are fit and well to attend.
- ✓ Maintain good handwashing and respiratory routines at home so that this is embedded well in readiness for school
- ✓ Ensure that all children arrive in freshly washed clothes each day
- ✓ Choose small bags that contain essential items – lunchboxes, books, PE kits. NO Pencil cases or toys please
- ✓ Arrive on time (8.45-9.55am), maintaining social distance while dropping off and picking up children
- ✓ Do not send your children in wearing masks – these impede teaching and learning and are not required within the school building or outdoors. Talk to the school if you have any issues around this that you would like us to understand.
- ✓ Do not congregate around the school entrances
- ✓ Only one adult (and essential siblings) to accompany on drop off and pick up to reduce volume of adults
- ✓ Wherever possible walk or cycle to school to avoid congestion
- ✓ Only come to the office or see a member of staff via a pre-booked appointment – no drop ins permissible for e.g. late delivery of items that have been forgotten. These should be placed on the bench outside and the office informed in advance of your arrival.
- ✓ Follow our directions on exit and entrances to the school and follow the movement markers and directions given to avoid congestions.
- ✓ Continue to follow government guidelines in respect of socially mixing including reducing risks at multiple family household or social gatherings
- ✓ Keep abreast of any changes nationally or locally that might affect school closures
- ✓ Ensure that all of your contact details are up to date and that you have access to Tucasi and Teachers2Parents app.
- ✓ We need to ensure that a suitable learning platform (i.e. Google Classroom) is established earlier on in the year to future proof children’s learning in the event of another lockdown. We would be very grateful for you to help us in getting this set up with our guidance.
- ✓ Finally, please do not take out your anger or frustration on members of staff regarding the operational decisions made by the school. Always seek clarity directly and respectfully. We have all, on a personal and professional level, experienced the frustration of Covid requirements and limitations but we continue to make decisions based on the guidance that we are expected, as a school, to abide by. It is not how we would “choose” to be but until the Covid threat disappears, we have no choice!

AUTUMN INSTRUCTIONS – Staff will be visible to help!

First day back at school for our Y1-Y6 pupils – Monday 7th September 2020.

Our new Reception pupils will start on Thursday 10th September at 1.30-3.00pm.

Entry into school – Please arrive between 8.45am – 8.55am

As usual, the *Infant children (YR, 1 and 2)* will use the *Infant entrance* and our *Junior children (Y3, 4, 5 and 6)* will go up the steps to the top door where they will be welcomed by a member of staff.

Exit from school – 3.15pm

As normal, the children will leave the school via the same entrance. Please could all parents arrive for 3.15pm. Children be

BRING IN TO SCHOOL:

- PE KIT
- PACKED LUNCH – UNLESS YOU ARE HAVING SCHOOL DINNERS
- WATER BOTTLE
- SMALL SCHOOL BAG WITH ESSENTIAL ITEMS ONLY
- NO PENCIL CASES OR PERSONAL ITEMS PLEASE
- MEDICATION eg. In date Inhalers and Epipens that the school needs to have available within the classroom

NEW RECEPTION PUPILS - Welcome to West Tytherley

Here is the plan for starting school:

- Thursday 10th September (1.30pm-3.00pm) for a stay and play session.
- Friday 11th September (1.30pm-3.00pm) for a stay and play session
- Monday 14th September (8.45am-11.45am) to build confidence with morning routines
- Tuesday 15th September (8.45am-11.45am) to build confidence with morning routines
- Wednesday 16th September (8.45am-11.45am) to build confidence with morning routines
- Thursday 17th September (8.45am-1.15pm) – morning plus lunchtime
- Friday 18th September (8.45am-1.15pm) – morning plus lunchtime
- Monday 21st September onwards – Full time (8.45am-3.15pm) Monday to Friday