



1 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are well and that you are enjoying the summer break.

Staff and pupils will return to school this week – staff on 2nd September and pupils (Year 1 to 6) on 3rd September with our new Reception children starting on Monday 7th - and I am writing to you to confirm the arrangements for our new term.

The risk assessment for 2020/21 academic year was posted on the school's website during August and has been approved by our board of directors. If you haven't already looked at it, you can find it here <https://www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Covid-19-Full-opening-September-2020-5-3-26-august.pdf>

As has become an unfortunate habit, the DfE have started to release more guidance to schools at the very last minute, around procedures for case management and local lockdowns. I'm sure the local authority will supplement this with more guidance as time progresses and I will pass any further information on to you if and when it becomes relevant.

I am sure that you will have been aware of the ongoing media coverage around the use of facemasks for returning school children. This applies to secondary age pupils and we will not be asking any of our children to cover their faces while they are at school. If you have a facemask for your child, which they will be wearing to and from school, please take it home with you for safekeeping when you drop them off.

When children return to school, they will be supported to understand the ways in which we will be helping them to be safe. As social distancing, in the way that we have been used to it over the last five months, is more difficult in a school building, and particularly with younger children, we will be grouping children in bubbles (in essence: Rec, year 1 and 2, year 3 and 4, year 5 and 6) and limiting the interaction between bubbles to reduce the number of households that children come into contact with. This, combined with increased hand hygiene, increased cleaning, staggered starts to the beginning and end of the day, staggered break and lunch times and changes in the way we manage resources and deliver parts of the curriculum, should help us to minimise the risk to everyone in our community.

I have put together some bullet points to ensure that everyone is aware of the changes made during these unprecedented times.

- On Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September, all pupils in years 1 to 6 will come to school at their staggered time. Here is the link to the letter sent on 17th July for your reference, as it outlines the plans for staggered starts: <https://www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Letter-to-parents-17.7.20-01.09-1.pdf>. There will also be new banners on the railings outside of school to support everyone coming in.
- From Monday 7th September, Reception will be back in school too, although initially finishing at 1 pm and then from Wednesday 9th September from 2 pm, after lunch.
- The Breakfast Club and the After School Club will be open from Monday 7th September. Again, please refer to the previous letter to confirm the new arrangements for dropping off and collecting. All children must also be booked into the sessions beforehand so that we are fully aware of numbers. Although we will be offering breakfast from 7th September please be aware that a snack is required for children attending after school club until 21st September. Thank you.
- The school day will start at 8.40am for children in Years 1, 3 and 4. School will start at 8.50am for children in Reception and Years 2, 5 and 6. School will finish at 3.20pm for Years 1, 3 and 4, and at 3.30pm for Years 2, 5 and 6. School will finish at 3.30 pm for Reception children from w/c 14th September. This is to enable us to stagger the number of parents and pupils approaching the school at any one time without compromising teaching time during the day.
- To reduce congestion, we ask that just one adult brings children to school and collects them. We would also like to remind parents that they should 'drop and go' in the mornings and should not congregate outside of school to chat. There will always be a member of school staff available at your child's gate to take messages.
- All children will enter and leave classrooms by their outside doors.



- Children should not bring items from home such as toys.
- Children should wear their school uniform, including school shoes – shorts and summer dresses are still very welcome, should the weather be warmer. We are asking parents to be mindful of bringing in as few items from home as possible, so if the weather forecast is for warm and dry, please leave coats at home too.
- Children having packed lunches should bring their food in washable, plastic containers which are named and can be thoroughly washed each night. Each child should have a named water bottle in school and this will be sent home daily for washing.
- With advice that we must limit items brought into school, we are requesting that children only bring in a drawstring bag or their book bag with their reading book and homework.
- PE kit should be sent in each Monday and will be returned home for washing each Friday
- We have additional risk assessments and procedures in place for certain curriculum activities such as PE and music that will enable us to continue delivering a wide and rich curriculum to pupils.
- Children must understand that we will be doing our very best to maintain social distancing in order to look after each other, and while we know they will be very excited to see each other, they must refrain from cuddling, hugging or kissing each other.
- At this time, no parents will be allowed to enter the school building unless with a prearranged appointment, as we are restricting access to everyone apart from essential staff, partner agencies and contractors. Please leave a message with the adult on the gate or contact your child's teacher via the Homelearning email account or school office account or telephone 01460 220565, or me, by email, should you have any queries.
- Please ensure that you notify Mrs Kellaway in the office if you have changed any of your own emergency contact details, and remember to send in any regular medication that your child may require, such as an inhaler. The adult on the gate will be available to receive consent forms on the first day back at school – if your child needs to have medication in school we cannot administer it without consent. The link to the medicine consent form is here <https://www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk/parent-information/expectations/#1526901749081-0c7fc6e4-70e3> We can provide a paper copy on Thursday if you need a printed version.
- Please make sure that you are aware of our procedures for managing a symptomatic child and the implications for isolating members of the bubble (children and staff) prior to a test outcome being confirmed - this is detailed in our risk assessment. The first contact for school will be our local public health team who will advise on action to be taken.

Here is the link to our updated Home School Agreement

<https://www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk/parent-information/expectations/#1526901867473-1c8066ae-9105> which was updated in the summer term 2020. The Home School Agreement should be returned to the school email address by email before your child starts back at school on Thursday. It is vital that all parents understand and accept the changes that we have had to make to reopen to pupils safely and that you are prepared to be supportive of the measures that we have had to put in place around infection control and behaviour management.

We understand that the vast majority of children will be excited to return to school and to see their friends again, but that for many, there will be a level of anxiety about what the school day will look like and what new procedures will be in place. We want to reassure you that pupils' wellbeing and emotional health is paramount in our thoughts and that we will be alert to any pupils who appear to be struggling. The first two days at school will be focusing on wellbeing through an Oliver Jeffers book: Here We Are. There are links on YouTube should you want to listen to it beforehand. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure that a return to school is positive and productive for all.

Please find attached:

- a letter for your child from their new class teacher, we hope that this will help your child feel positive about returning to school
- Back to school leaflet from the government
- Letter from Julian Wooster to all Parents/Carers in Somerset

I have had a small number of individual requests for information about the reopening of school, which I will respond to. If you do have any further queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Wishing you all a smooth and happy start to the new school year.

Kind regards,



Tracey Hart
Headteacher

