



## **Preshute Church of England Primary School**

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Head teacher: Mrs C Hann-Perkins

25/06/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we write this latest update, the Government announced late last night further changes in the restrictions relating to COVID-19. As this new announcement has highlighted some apparent contradictions in the guidance issued from the Department of Education (DFE), until this has been resolved the current guidance still remains in force.

We have been working hard in conjunction with our governing body and the Local Authority to evaluate our position and explore the possibility of a wider reopening. Clearly, we would love to welcome back the whole school as soon as we are able, however it is crucial that we continue to follow the published guidance from the Government, Department of Education and Local Authority to shape our risk assessment and to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of our school and wider community.

The Local Authority wholly supports the plans we have implemented and are confident we have explored all possibilities to pursue a wider reopening while taking into account the specific challenges faced at Preshute. As stated in a previous letter, all schools are required to respond to the guidance taking into consideration their individual circumstances, and we are clearly constrained by the physical limitations of our site. Lesley Lowe, the regional lead from the Local Authority, is able to receive any questions from parents regarding this particular issue. Please contact [schooleffectiveness@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooleffectiveness@wiltshire.gov.uk), for any further detailed information.

As you know over the last couple of weeks, we have welcomed back Year 6 into school and have made additional provision for increasing numbers of keyworker children on site. We currently have 4 bubbles of Year 6 children and 2 bubbles for Keyworker and vulnerable children. Due to increasing numbers of these, from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June we will be opening additional Keyworker bubbles to accommodate these. We have had to redesign and reorganise the school to accommodate the return of these additional pupils and this now means that under the current guidance, Preshute is operating at full capacity.

During our conversations over recent weeks with many of you, there have been some questions posed relating to the future plans regarding the return of all children to school. We fully appreciate the current situation continues to be uncertain for many of you and we share many of your concerns, as we are as keen as you to have all children back in school. We are committed to keeping you abreast of our plans for the remainder of this year as well as for the next academic year.

To facilitate this, we have put together a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), in order to give you greater understanding of the school's position.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many of you who have sent in supportive emails and messages to our staff, especially around our online platforms. We very much appreciate the difficulties home learning can present, which is why we will continue to work with and evolve Class Dojo and Evidence Me (and its associated links) platforms for all year groups.



## FAQs

The following are questions that many parents/carers have asked:

Q. My child is in year R or year 1, will they be returning to school before the end of the summer?

A. The school is currently working at full capacity, unfortunately we do not have enough space or staff to open to more children. If you are a keyworker with children in these year groups, we may be able to provide you with a space.

Q. Will other year groups be returning to school before the end of the current year?

A. In line with the Government guidance, we will not be taking any additional year groups at this time. The school is currently running at capacity due to guidelines on social distancing and restrictions surrounding the amount of contact between adults and children. As per the Government guidance we are not able to use other venues, such as village halls. Alongside planning and monitoring Home Learning, teachers are currently leading a bubble group, while TAs are supporting provision for children and staff in bubbles.

Q. My child's year current group is not a returning cohort. What provision will be in place for my child?

A. Class Dojo will continue for all year groups. The work will also be accessible for families who are not able to access Class Dojo via the school website. Class teachers will continue to make phone calls to children who are learning at home, so please let them know how this is working.

Q. Will the school be moving towards video/live lessons?

A. Together with other schools in the local area, we have conducted several trials of using Google Classroom for 'live interactions' with children. Due to the number of staff that are teaching bubbles daily during school hours, it has become clear that that streaming or recording 'live' lessons will not be feasible at this time. However, teachers have already been making teaching videos for Class Dojo /Evidence Me to assist with learning, and to help the children feel connected with their class teacher still. We have received a great deal of positive feedback about these from parents and children. **We have also received acknowledgement from the Local Authority that this is outstanding practice and they have requested copies of our videos to share with other schools across the county.**

Other Video lessons are available on the Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize. These have been recommended by DfE.

Q. I am a key worker, but I didn't request a place. I would like my child to return for a short time before the end of the school year, is this possible?

A. The guidance now states that **only one parent** needs key worker status to access childcare provision. At the moment, we are full on some days but can accommodate children on other days, so please email the school with your request and we will do our best to accommodate.

Unfortunately, if you request a place on the days that we are full, we are unable to accommodate more children (due to current guidance on social distancing). However, please let us know your needs as children will be placed on a waiting list and will be notified if a place becomes available as soon as possible.

Q. Why does it appear that different primary schools are offering different provisions?

A. As stated above, schools are required to respond to the guidelines considering their own unique situation. Schools vary differently in size, available space and staffing. They have varying numbers of keyworker and vulnerable families and therefore will all respond differently.



Q. Will school be open for key workers/vulnerable families during the summer?

The Local Authority have advised us that we should not be required to open over the summer holidays. They are working with external providers to compile a directory of services that may be available during the summer holidays. We are still waiting for further information and will let you know as soon as possible.

Q. When will Teacher Development days happen??

A. The Teacher Development day (TD) planned for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June will be postponed until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. The school will be closed for all pupils including key worker children on this day.

We are currently planning the calendar for next academic year, including the TD days, this will be published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July.

Q. What will happen in September?

A. The school is waiting for further guidance from the Government and DfE regarding this. We will respond quickly to let you know our plans, as soon as we are able. At the moment, it is unclear how it will be suggested for classes to be organised, i.e. the number of pupils in at one time/will social distancing be in place etc.

We are currently unaware what the implications will be for Keyworker children.

Q. What will the curriculum look like in September? How will the curriculum be adjusted for next year?

A. Clearly, the curriculum will need to be adjusted to reflect the needs of the children, on their return. We will use robust non-formal assessments which will inform our planning to ensure we have an understanding of the individual needs of each child.

Q. Who will be my child's new class teacher? When will I find out?

A. Children will find out who their new class teacher will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The proposed calendar for next year will also be issued.

Q. What will the transition into a new year group look like?

A. Your child's new teacher will be able to introduce themselves via Class Dojo in introductory videos, which will allow some time for them to get to know each other.

Teachers will have their usual handover meetings, where they will be able to discuss your child with the next teacher.

Q. What will happen about transition to secondary?

Mrs Mundy has already passed on transition forms and 'virtually' met with Mrs Hawkins, Head of Year 7 at St Johns, to discuss transition for those children moving there. St Johns have forwarded us the same Transition Pack that you have received. The children will be focussing on Transition during the WB 29.06.2020. Year 6 will also be discussing wider issues surrounding transition to secondary school, including PSHE topics of Wellbeing, E-Safety etc. There will be more information to follow in the form of the Home Learning packs, which will provide links and other information for parents.

Mrs Mundy has also liaised with other Secondary schools for transition of some children.



Should you have any further questions, please feel free to ask your class teacher, when they next ring

OR contact us via the [admin@preshute.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@preshute.wilts.sch.uk)

We thank you all for your continued support and please rest assured that we will keep you updated on any developments as we receive them.

Very best wishes,

Claire Hann-Perkins

Peter McGuigan

Michael Scheepers

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Parent/Well-being Governor

