

Headteacher

John Galvin

Petworth CofE Primary SchoolSouth Grove, Petworth,
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Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming back all of our children on Monday 7th September with our new reception children starting school for the first time attending school on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Although this year will be different for our children we have worked hard to ensure that disruption for our children is kept to a minimum.

Yes, there will be staggered start and finishes to the school day; yes, the children will be kept in their classes and will not mix with other classes at break times; yes, key stage two children will be eating their lunch in their classrooms. Everything else will be what the children are used to. We will not be changing our curriculum. We will be encouraging children to wash their hands regularly and if they sneeze to, '**catch it, bin it, kill it**', which I am sure you have drilled into your children since March.

To help us, please can you ensure your child(ren) only bring in one school bag. For year groups four to six, the children will keep their bags with them at all times and stored under their desks. Space is at a premium and your child only needs to bring in P.E. kit, lunch, drink and book bag.

We will be working with Chartwells to serve the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) for children in Oak, Ash and Rowan. In addition, for children who are entitled to free school meals, we will deliver these to the child's classroom. However, we do not have the capacity to do this for children who normally order paid school lunches from Chartwells. Therefore please **do not** order lunches.

The staggering of start and finish times, and the distribution of entrance and exit gates, has been introduced for everyone's safety. It is vitally important that children arrive at the correct time and through the correct gate. This is so we can minimise the number of social interactions that we all encounter during the day, thus minimising the chance of transmitting of the virus. At the end of the day parents are asked to wait in the appropriate space, at the appropriate time. These arrangements have been very carefully thought out and are in place to protect us all and ensure school is enabled to stay open through minimising the risk of the transmission of the virus.

	Oak	Ash	Rowan	Beech	Maple	Elm	Willow Inv	Willow Exp
Entrance / Exit	Playground	Playground	Playground	H.S. Green	H.S. Silver	H.S. Green	H.S. Silver	H.S. Green
Start	8:30	9:00	8:45	8:30	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:00
Finish	3:00	3:30	3:15	3:00	3:00	3:15	3:30	3:30

- H.S. means Herbert Shiner car park

How you can help – your role as parents.

A key part of the guidance is ensuring that anyone who feels ill is tested and does not attend school. Full cooperation with the test and trace programme is crucial. This is where we need your help! It is important we all act collectively to keep us all safe and to keep school running well. Please do not send your child to school with COVID symptoms. This, however, does not offer an excuse to stay at home regardless. School attendance is now compulsory again, so it is expected that anyone with symptoms will get an **immediate** test and follow the guidance accordingly, including attending school if the test is negative, or isolating if the test (or anyone in the household) is positive. It is expected that test outcomes will be shared with school.

If your child is absent due to COVID guidance, arrangements will be made so they continue their studies. Obviously, that cannot do work on days when they are actively ill, but there may be times they are well but must not be in school e.g., if isolating due to a member of the family having a COVID positive test. Work will be set and monitored (either through the blog or paper copies of learning activities), so that they can continue to learn and make progress.

You can also help at the school gates. When meeting your child please remember that you must be socially distant from other adults as you would be anywhere else. The staff will approach groups that are too large. Please do not be offended if they do so and it turns out you were gathering properly because you are a family or support bubble. It is important you help us make the immediate surroundings of school safe at these peak pinch points (drop offs and pick up). Please also only gather at the appropriate collection point for your child and do not wait around on the school grounds.

I am well aware there is a lot to consider and read here, but I am delighted that we are making plans to be back in the school together. The prospect of the children getting together and sharing their news, catching up with one another and enjoying the company of others is exciting. School has been all too silent in recent months and it will be good to see the children again. I believe when we return, although aspects of the arrangements I have outlined will feel very different, we will quickly feel safe and get into a new set of habits that form our school life. I am sure we can cooperate as a community to make things work.

For those who like to look at the detail first hand rather than what is reported in the press the Guidelines for opening schools can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,



John Galvin
Headteacher