

Ramsgate Holy Trinity C.E. (Aided) Primary School

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1st September 2020

Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a restful and relaxed summer break. I know that for some of us a degree of normality has returned, with guidelines allowing us to see more of family and friends; I also appreciate that some of us may have needed to continue shielding to protect themselves or loved ones. Either way, I do hope that the warm weather has allowed you all to enjoy the summer.

I am pleased to report that the Government's guidance released just before the summer holidays began has not been significantly changed and we are able to move forward with our plans for reopening to all children on Thursday 3rd September.

I cannot tell you how much we are looking forward to having the children back at Holy Trinity!

Class Bubbles

As I stressed in my end-of-term letter, the goal for us is that school feels normal for the children – as well as being as safe as possible. We will be introducing the class bubble system - each class will be its own bubble. This means that bubbles will have 30 children with their teacher and their TA. Because of the importance of children being taught the full curriculum, the government guidance makes it clear that specialist teachers can teach across these bubbles. This means that we can continue with our excellent sports and music provision as well as moving forward with plans this year to enhance and develop our performing arts curriculum.

In addition to the protection that class bubbles provide, we will be putting in a number of measures that will limit crossover of pupils across the school. Lunchtimes will be staggered, so that in the main, only two classes at a time are in the hall, separated by a table width. Break times will also be staggered so that no more than two classes are outside at the same time.

Within the class bubble and throughout the school, we will of course remain vigilant - children will wash or sanitise hands (using alcohol-based hand gel) as they come into school, as they move between lessons, before, and after lunchtimes and playtimes. We will keep the sharing of commonly used resources to a minimum and will provide children in years 1-6 with their own stationery and equipment that they will need each day. To help limit what comes between home and school each day we ask that children come to school with one bag only and **do not** bring in pencil cases – we will make sure they have everything they need. We will also be continuing with the routine of additional cleaning of the school building and commonly used touch-points through the school day.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

Well-Being

We know that many children will be anxious about coming into school after being away for so long; and we know that every family has faced a myriad of challenges through these last six months. At Ramsgate Holy Trinity we take everyone's wellbeing very seriously and we will be ensuring that each and every child settles into school positively and with confidence. We have put a lot of thought into what this means practically and prepared our classrooms and the curriculum with this in mind. We also know that each child will respond differently to the return to school and we are committed to working closely with any child and their family who struggles with the change.

Start and Finish Times and Routines

To limit parents having to gather in large groups and to enable the unrestricted flow of movement around the school during drop-off and pick up times, we are going to continue with our 'one-way' system around the school and with a 'window' of drop off time. This has worked very well over the past few months.

In the morning, **children can be dropped off into their classroom any time between 8.40am and 9.00am**, when registration will close. Pick up time remains at 3.10pm.

Entry to the school for drop off and pick up will be through the main pedestrian gate on Cliffside Drive.

- Enter through the main pedestrian gate on Cliffside Drive.
- Follow the path towards the main entrance to the school.
- Follow the signs towards and through the large wooden gates at the back of the car-park.
- Walk to your child's classroom, keeping a safe distance from others and from the classroom/ cloakroom door. Your child will enter the classroom through the cloakroom.
- Parents will continue through the Key Stage One playground and exit via the gate on Dumpton Park Drive.

Please note that the pedestrian gate will remain closed until just before 8.40am. This means that if you arrive earlier than this, you will have no choice but to queue outside the school. We are offering a wide window for arrival to reduce the need for a large number of parents to arrive at the same time, but it is important that you plan to arrive **within** that window, and **not before**. We would also encourage as many of you to walk to school as possible; parking is always an issue at the school as you know.

We do ask, given the circumstances, that on the first day all children are accompanied by an adult when dropped off. However, there will be a sign-up sheet for children in Key Stage 2 who are given parental consent to leave the school grounds unaccompanied. These children will receive a pass they need to show when they leave in the afternoon.

PE Reminder

As explained before the summer holidays, we are introducing **PE Ready Days** this term. In order to ensure that children receive the high quality PE that they have become accustomed to at Holy Trinity, we have decided to run PE over a whole afternoon for each year group. This means that the children will receive their two hours of curriculum PE on the same day. To limit the amount of clothing coming into school and the implications of children having to change in a confined space, we will be asking the children to come to school - on their PE day - in their PE kit. These will be called 'PE Ready Days' and children will be expected to be in full accepted PE kit. As a reminder, the accepted **general** PE kit is:

- maroon/ black tracksuit bottoms,
- maroon/ black shorts,
- plain white T-shirt and trainers (due to PE being led outdoors whenever possible).

PE will begin **next week** on the 7th September.

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As a reminder, the PE Ready Days (so also sports club offer days) have been assigned as follows:

| Year Group | PE Ready Day |
|------------|--------------|
| Year 1 | Friday |
| Year 2 | Tuesday |
| Year 3 | Wednesday |
| Year 4 | Wednesday |
| Year 5 | Monday |
| Year 6 | Monday |

Clubs

As a school, we want to ensure that we offer as many extra-curricular opportunities as possible. With this in mind, on the day a year group has PE, there will also be a sports club available for them. This will be for Years 1 - 6. Clubs will begin for the Autumn Term on 14th of September, and an email will go out soon with details of how the sports clubs will be run safely and in accordance with government guidelines, as well as details of how to sign up.

Other clubs will have to be limited for the Autumn Term. However, we are pleased that government guidelines now allow the Choir to continue. Details of the changes we are making to ensure the choir can run safely will follow; and although these groups are already established, we will be understanding of any parent who would like to temporarily withdraw their child from the choir for the Autumn Term; they will not lose their place permanently and will be able to re-join at any time if you change your mind.

Covid Symptoms - Procedures

For the protection of children, staff and all families, it is important that you remain alert for possible symptoms and that you inform the school straight away should your child have a temperature, a new continuous cough or a sudden loss of taste and smell. We know that for the most part these symptoms will be indicative of no more than a normal cough or cold - but it is vital that any child or a family member displaying symptoms follow national procedure and get tested immediately. If a child displays these symptoms at school, we will phone the parent and ask for them to be collected. If a child in a bubble tests positive, it is the law that they stay at home and that their bubble will be sent home and will self-isolate for 14 days. Parents and family members will not have to self-isolate for this time unless their child also tests positive. The hand washing, hygiene routines, class bubbles and limitation of crossing bubbles are all put in place to help minimise the risk of this happening.

Home Learning

If a class bubble does have to self-isolate for 14 days, there will be a planned two week block of home learning for that class. This will be mainly in the style that the children became familiar with at the end of last year, although there will be additional input from the class teacher directly. A short survey will be sent to all parents in the next few days to establish what technology families have access to at home; this will help us determine in what way this input from the class teacher can be planned.

If a child has to self-isolate for 14 days due to contact with a symptomatic family member or friend **outside** of school, home learning will be made available that broadly follows the objectives being taught in class. Although direct input from the teacher will not be possible, we will ensure that there is communication between the child/ parents and school during that time.

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Communication with School

In order to minimise the chance of cross-infection, we must limit the number of people who come into school and in contact with school staff. For this reason, parents will not be able to enter the classrooms in the morning or after school. If there are any messages you need to get to your child's class teacher, please use the home contact book or reading record to write a message or email/phone the office. There will also be members of staff in the playground that you are welcome to give the message to. Whilst we would like to maintain an open-door policy, if you need to speak to the class teacher directly, we would like to ask you to make an appointment for the time being. We also ask that parents do not come in to speak to the office in person, but telephone or email instead. In line with already established practice, if you need to collect your child early for any appointments outside school, please inform the office beforehand.

School Meals

We have now received the menus for the school meals this term and will forward these to you later this afternoon. Please note that the cost of school meals has increased to £2.30 per day, but, as mentioned before the school holidays, **please delay paying for any meals until we can confirm the new website details**. Once we have final information from our school caterer, we will be in contact with you again.

School meals are free for children in Reception and KS1, but KS2 do have to pay for school meals. If your child has just moved up to Year 3 this September, you will need to start paying for your child's meal (unless you qualify for Free School Meals).

I look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday morning, and hope you enjoy the last day of the holidays!

Yours,

Mrs Price