



Vicarage Lane, Royston, Barnsley, S71 4QY
Tel: 01226 722011
Executive Headteacher: Mr Lee Spencer
Assistant Headteacher: Ms Rachel Steele
Assistant Headteacher: Mr Curtis White
www.royston-stjohn.org.uk



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21st July 2020

Dear parents/carers,

We hope everyone is keeping safe. Before we share vital information about September, we would just like to take this time to thank you all from all the staff at Royston St John Baptist Primary School. This year has seen a lot of changes in school, with many great ideas being put in to place to provide a truly incredible learning experience for our children. We felt just as everything was beginning to fit together nicely, we had everything pulled apart from us. What we have witnessed as a community makes me so proud of what we are establishing here at Royston. The way our children and families have come together has been unlike anything I have seen before in education and for that, I just want to say a huge thank you to you all.

September Return

Following the latest government guidance, school will be re-opening to all children in September. It is our intention to make the return to school as successful and stress-free as possible as well as ensuring the highest standard of health and safety for pupils, families and staff. We hope that sharing these plans with you now will enable you, and your child, to have confidence in our processes from September.

In line with government guidance, attendance will be mandatory for all children and we cannot wait to have everyone back together!

You start dates will be:

- Year 1 to Year 6 will return on Wednesday 2nd September
- Foundation Stage (Miss Openshaw's group) will return on Wednesday 2nd September
- Foundation Stage (Miss Best's group) will return on Thursday 3rd September
- Both Foundation Stage groups will then come in together from Friday 4th September.

Our start and end times will remain the same but to reduce congestion on the playground, we will open classrooms from 8.40am and continue with the one-way system (entrance through the usual gate on Vicarage Lane and exit through the double gates in the Foundation Stage outdoor area). A reminder that our school day and first lesson starts at 8:50am. Children can be collected between 3:20- 3:30. We will not be having an afternoon break to allow for this earlier collection time. Break times and lunch times will be staggered to allow for social distancing. Start and end times will be regularly reviewed. Year 6 pupils will be dismissed at 3:30 to walk home alone, unless an adult arrives for them from 3:20 onwards.

Parents have been fantastic in following the social distancing measures and not entering the school building. It is really important that this continues to avoid putting anyone at increased risk. This has been easier whilst pupil numbers have been lower, but we will need all parents to follow the rules. We recognise that this will be especially hard for parents bringing their children to school for the first time and those moving up from Foundation Stage. We fully understand that many children will feel anxious and parents will find it hard to leave their child, however, this **measure is essential**. Parents must leave the playground immediately and avoid the temptation to stay and chat with families that you may not have seen for a long time. We really need everyone to consider how hard this will be for families brand new to our school and to discuss with your child that they will enter their new classroom unaccompanied immediately when coming on to the playground. We promise you that



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our staff will settle your children and cannot wait to see them all. If you need to contact your child's class teacher, you must book a telephone appointment by ringing the school office.

All children must be in school uniform including having their PE kits with them. There is no need to wash these any more often than usual.

Our first priority

Our first priority will be re-establishing routines and helping children adjust to a return to our school. Reconnecting with teachers, friends and new routines will be of paramount importance. Only then will we begin to look at where the children are in their learning and start plugging the gaps – that is our job and we will work hard to ensure that your child is not disadvantaged in the longer term by events beyond all of our control. We will be delivering daily maths and English as well as delivering our rich and vibrant curriculum. Throughout the term, we will keep to what we normally do as much as possible to re-establish core routines and rebuild that security and familiarity for children. However, we will need to adapt in the autumn term and think differently about how we deliver some of the calendared events. Classrooms will remain slightly different with forward facing desks from Year 2 upwards and each child will have their own pencil, ruler etc. Class resources and those shared across bubbles will be frequently cleaned.

Where staff are working 1:1 or with smaller groups they will wash their hands before and after, the space being used will be wiped down (including any equipment that has been used) and we will endeavour to maintain social distancing where possible.

Assemblies have been planned but these will be delivered virtually to avoid classes/bubbles merging and singing assemblies will not take place in the autumn term. We will ensure that resources are frequently wiped down and not shared beyond each bubble (including outdoor equipment).

Children do not need to bring in anything other than coats, PE kits, lunch boxes, water bottles, book bags and mobile phones if they are Y6 and choose to or if your child is walking home on their own. Children do not need face coverings unless they have travelled to school on public transport. If this is the case they must remove them when entering school, put them in their bag and wash their hands. If your child is moving into Year 6 and is wanting to bring their mobile phone into school, it must be turned off when entering the school site and remain off until leaving the school site. We take no responsibility for mobile phones and they are the responsibility of your child should they choose to bring it in to school. Mobile phones should be handed in to a member of staff on arrival, these will then be taken to reception.



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Health and Safety

We will minimise adults entering school in the autumn term and those that do enter (supply, peripatetic teachers etc), office staff will check their temperature and take their details to engage with the NHS track and trace process. There will be no school visits in the autumn term. There will be no volunteers in school in the autumn term and anyone who visits schools to work alongside specific children will have an allocated place to work that will be cleaned before and after they visit. They will not enter classrooms.

When Senior Leadership Team (SLT) enter classrooms to provide support they will wash hands before and after entering any classroom. If a child or member of staff does become ill during the school day, we follow the Public Health England (PHE) guidance.

1. The child will be moved to the Community Room and the staff member with the child will wear full PPE and remain 2m away.
2. The staff member or child will then be sent home to reduce transmission. They will need to self-isolate for 7 days and arrange for a Covid test. Household members (including siblings) will need to isolate for 14 days.
3. Staff and children who have been in close contact do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves.
4. Once a staff member or child has had a test, they must inform school.
5. If the test is negative and the staff member/child feels well, they can return to school. If the test is positive, they must isolate for 7 days (14 days for their household) and we will seek advice from PHE in terms of contacting everyone who has been in close contact with the staff member / child. Please note that children/staff who test positive can return to school (after the 7 days isolation) with a cough as this can last up to several weeks.

Our next steps

We will be working over the summer to put in place remote learning in the event a bubble, the school or the Local Authority is closed / lockdown. We want to ensure that whilst this is worst case scenario, that we can immediately set this up.

We will also look at how we can use this technology to deliver parent consultation day and curriculum events for the autumn term.

Our risk assessment will be reviewed and shared when completed so that you can see the safety measures that we have in place and I would encourage you to contact me if you have any questions.



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We would also like to announce our new school motto. The school's previous motto we feel is no longer relevant to where we are as a school and the 'Big Change' has certainly now been made. Our new school motto has been chosen by Ava A in Year 6- 'Learn More, Know More, Be More'. We will be sharing and discussing this with children upon their return.

Again, thank you for all your support throughout this year. This was not the year that we expected but we truly feel that school has moved forward significantly. We cannot wait to have you back and start our learning together once again. Over the summer we will continue to share updates about school and share what school looks like for parents return.