



Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Family

I have been asked to share the following message with you by the Local Authority:

Dear Parents / Carers,

Covid-19 update

As you know, the government has announced an easing of covid-19 measures from 19th July 2021 but expects the wearing of face coverings to be continued in indoors spaces.

With current cases of covid-19 rising rapidly in the borough and doubling weekly, we have been asked by the local authority to keep all current measures in place until the end of this term.

Please be aware that, in line with current guidance, the need for isolation when advised still remains. This will not change until 16th August 2021.

When the new academic year begins in September, we may need to temporarily reintroduce some measures to control cases and outbreaks in local areas. This will be on the instruction of the borough's Director of Public Health and we will of course communicate any outbreak management plans to you as soon as possible.

We hope we can count on your continued support whilst we remain in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Arrangements for the rest of this school year

As you will be aware, the guidance changes on Monday 19th July. However, we will be maintaining our current arrangements in order to get all pupils as safely as possible to the summer holidays. This includes the wearing of masks when on school premises. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Arrangements for September.

We had hoped to be able to return to our usual start and finish times to the school day and no longer need to maintain bubbles throughout the school day. However, with the situation as it is locally, in line with other Stourbridge schools, we have reviewed the situation and feel that with a break of 7 weeks before the children return and not knowing what the picture will be by then, we are safest to maintain bubbles and staggered starts and finishes for at least the first few weeks of term. We have made some alterations to timings based on reflections from this year. **Please see below the time table for your child/ children's timings.** We will maintain sibling drop offs and pickups and breakfast and after school's club will continue as usual but with the latest pick up time now being 5 30pm.

Email: info@st-james.dudley.sch.uk Website: www.st-james.dudley.sch.uk



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Year group	Start time	Pupils' entry gate	End of day time	Pick up area
6	0900	1	1520	Gate 1 – tarmac between two gates
5	0900	1	1520	Gate 1 – tarmac between two gates
2	0840	1	1500	Gate 1 – tarmac between two gates
1	0840	2	1500	Gate 2 – KS1 Playground
4	0850	1	1510	Gate 1 – tarmac between two gates
3	0850	2	1510	Gate 2 – KS1 Playground
Reception	0850	Through gate 2 to classroom door with one adult	1505	Gate 2 to Classroom door
Preschool am	0830	Through gate 2 to classroom door with one adult	1130	Gate 2 to Classroom door
Preschool pm	12.15	Through gate 2 to classroom door with one adult	3.15	Gate 2 to Classroom door

Gate 1 = additional gate next to car park entrance

Gate 2 = main gate with buzzer

As with this year, please distance from others and leave the gate areas clear.

To start the term, we will maintain year group bubbles for assemblies, play and dinner times.

The risk assessment will be reviewed and updated on the website to reflect changes for September but we will continue to monitor the local and national information and guidance and make any necessary alternations. We are all keen to return to a more “normal” school day but want to ensure that we do so when it most safe. Again your cooperation and support with this is very much appreciated.

Term dates and INSET days

Thursday 2nd September INSET day

Friday 3rd September INSET day

Monday 6th September pupils return to school

October half term holiday Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

Term ends Friday 17th December

Christmas holiday Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January

Spring term starts Tuesday 4th January

February half term holiday Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February

Term ends Friday 8th April

Easter holidays Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April

Summer term starts Monday 25th April

May bank holiday Monday 2nd May

May half term holiday Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Term ends Friday 22nd July

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We have another 3 INSET days to confirm. Unfortunately, I am unable to do that at the moment as we are awaiting dates from external trainers, so I will confirm those dates as soon as I am able. In addition, the LA will confirm the date of the additional bank holiday, shortly.

Uniform

We have relaxed some of the expectations around school uniform this year due to school closures and difficulty in sourcing the correct uniform. However, with restrictions being lifted the expectation that all children arrive at school in school uniform wearing the appropriate footwear, will be re-established. Details of our uniform policy and expectations can be found on the school website – please click [here](#).

I remain responsible for track and trace for any pupils or staff who test positive for the first 10 days of the school holidays, whose symptoms began within 48 hours of being in school. Should your child test positive, please email info@st-james.dudley.sch.uk with the details of any symptoms, when symptoms (if any) began and the date and time of the test.

Myself and all of the staff and governors wish you all a very safe and happy summer holidays. We would like to thank you for your continuing patience, support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

L Mason

Mrs L Mason – head teacher

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