



Chase Lane Primary School and Nursery Unit

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Head Teacher: Mr C Jeffery B.A (Hons)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I write this week on the last day of term. We have made it to the end of the most poignant school year of many of our lives. What we have all been through this year has been terrible for everyone and I can only hope that we are on the other side and that the second wave doesn't come. School has become a very different environment this term and how we work has changed dramatically. This will affect how school operates when we open to all children full time in September but first I would like to acknowledge lockdown.

Throughout lockdown school staff have worked incredibly hard to maintain excellent communications with families and learning for the children. The office staff, support staff and the teachers have been available and working every day since the start of lockdown and they have earned one hundred times over their summer break and a good rest. May I take the opportunity to extend my thanks and share my pride in all staff for the amazing job that they have done.

I would also like to thank all of the children that have been completing all of their online learning. Your dedication and commitment to learning has been excellent and I respect all of you immensely for that. Your teachers have missed you so much and we can't wait to get you all back in September. When we do come back school will be a very different place compared to before lockdown but I know that most of you have already been in to meet your new teacher and have seen what school looks like.

As parents you will have many questions regarding September. I will try to answer some in this, my last letter today but any government updates throughout the summer will be shared with you prior to our return in the Autumn. The idea is that school will be operating at a much fuller capacity but not all provisions will take place in the autumn term.

The government require us to ensure that some key strategies are in place to maintain excellent health and safety standards.

1. Minimise contact with those who may be displaying symptoms
2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than normal
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it'
4. Introduce enhanced cleaning

The above expectations must be in place in school all of the time, in addition we are asked to properly consider:

5. Maintaining social distancing where possible
6. Where necessary wear PPE

Finally, there are expectations as to the reporting of any cases and the school is to engage with the governments test and trace strategies.

Children will be in their class bubble. The idea of this is that we limit significantly the chance of them coming into contact with others from another bubble. For example, children will not be allowed at any time to enter the classroom of another bubble but they might be outside at the same time. Outside areas will all be zoned so that children from different bubbles do not mix. All of this means that class bubbles of 30 will exist however in the nursery we will be

operating a much larger bubble of up to 90. This is due to the way that the nursery runs and the fact that some children come for morning sessions, some for afternoon sessions and some for the whole day. It is widely accepted that children so young are at minimal risk but obviously this does mean that a lot of people will all be using the space. Mrs Field our Early Year co-ordinator and I have planned extensively how to make this as safe as possible.

In Years 1 to 6 children’s tables will all be separated with two children at each table. All tables will be forward facing. Each child will have their own pack of stationary that will not be shared with others however, we have to accept that some items cannot be given to every child for example sets of colouring pencils or paints. The use of such items will be limited for now.

Reception children will be working in small groups within the classroom but will have greater freedom and we accept that social distancing in the Foundation stage will not happen.

Hand hygiene remains the priority. Children will have their hands sanitised as they arrive in school and then will wash their hands with soap and water when they arrive and at various points during the day. We will continue to promote the ‘Catch it, Kill it, Bin it’ strategy. We will also involve children in keeping things clean and sanitised, for example we will teach them how to sanitise their tables before they eat using antibacterial products and disposable towels. All of these measures will help us to stay as safe as possible.

If a child or adult should become unwell in a bubble and show possible symptoms we will follow the government guidance. This means taking them to a room to isolate with a member of staff in PPE. The child will be sent home and a test booked for them. Whilst all of this happens, the bubble continues as normal. If a test came back positive, that child must isolate for 7 days and the rest of their household must isolate for 14 days. The bubble will also be closed for 14 days. No child from that bubble can attend school during the 14 days. However, children whose bubble has closed but are not unwell may have siblings in other bubbles. These siblings can and should attend.

From September, we will continue to operate staggered start and end times to the school day details of which can be found below. Playtimes will also be staggered so that year groups don’t go out in the same area at the same time as others. This impacts on lunchtime.

	Start	End
Nursery am	8:55	11:55
Nursery pm	12:25	3:20
Nursery 30 hours	8:55	3:20
Reception	9:05	3:25
Year 1	8:55	3:15
Year 2	8:45	3:30
Year 3	9:05	3:25
Year 4	9:15	3:35
Year 5	8:55	3:15
Year 6	8:45	3:30

At lunchtime children will all have packed lunches. If you currently provide your child with a packed lunch, then please continue to do so. If your child currently has school meals, either free school meals or paid meals then this will continue but please be aware, we will be providing the children with a packed lunch, **not a hot meal**. This is so that the children can eat their lunch in their classroom as obviously the canteen cannot be used as a public space for all to use. As we get closer to the autumn half term we will be seeking to provide hot meals but currently this is not an option.

Wrap around care will continue in the form of breakfast club and afterschool club however this provision will be limited. I also note that this provision will mean different children from different bubbles being in the hall together. To minimise risk, we will be having one of our large canteen tables per year group for example: all Year 1 children will

have their own table, Year 2 on another and so on. The children will have to stay at that table whilst in the club only leaving the table to go to the toilet. The school governors and I accept that this is the best we can offer to those families who rely on this service.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have the range of after school clubs that would normally be offered as this would mean that children would be mixing with children from other bubbles unnecessarily.

I ask that wherever possible families avoid using public transport to come to school. Buses are operating at approximately 15% at the moment and are not a reliable mode of transport for getting to school on time. They are also a very high risk environment due to the possibility of coming into contact with germs from different areas. If using public transport is unavoidable, then please be sure to wear a face mask. If you and your child/children wear a mask to school that is fine. However, masks **must** be removed when you arrive at school. The mask must then either be taken home by parent/carers or put in two plastic bags and not taken out until children leave the site.

If you wish to scoot or cycle to school, I encourage this but please remember not to scoot or cycle in the school grounds showing consideration to others.

Many children will have done that growing thing over the last 4 months' and will undoubtedly be requiring new school uniform for September. School uniform details are available on the school's website

<https://www.chaselanprimary.waltham.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform%26%23160%3B&pid=36>

If you wish to order uniform from the school, you can do this anytime from now. We will then prepare it all for collection on the **Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September** between 9:00am and 3:00pm.

I'm sure many of you will be planning to get away over the next few weeks. I must politely remind you that some countries have restrictions and upon your return you may have some quarantine expectations. These restrictions may well ease or even become tighter over the summer. Either way school attendance is statutory from September. This means that if you travel somewhere that has quarantine restrictions upon your return you must ensure that you allow enough time for this not go past the 7th September. Please see below for further government advice

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

As we draw the school year to a close, we have some colleagues that we are going to say goodbye to. After a staggering 33 years at Chase Lane we say goodbye to Mrs Welling and would like to wish her well in her retirement.

In addition to Mrs Welling we are saying goodbye to Mrs Christophi. She has accrued an impressive 19 years at Chase Lane and we wish her very well in her retirement.

We are also saying goodbye to Miss Hird this year as she is to develop her interests in the world of special educational needs.

Last but not least we are saying goodbye to Miss Mills who having only taught at Chase Lane for a year is relocating. Please join me in wishing all those leaving good health and the very best for the future.

Finally, I would like thank all of those that have extended their gratitude to the school for our efforts throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. Your kind words and thoughts mean the world to us at such a difficult time.

I wish you all the best of health throughout the summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 7th September.

Kind regards

Mr Jeffery