



Newsletter - Monday 13th July 2020

Dear parents,

September 2020

I am pleased to be able to share with you our planning for September opening to all pupils. We are continuing to stagger starting and finishing times to enable us to maintain social distancing at drop off and pick up, although we have condensed the timings. We will therefore have drop offs from 8:45 to 9:10 rather than the current 8:45 to 9:40.

In order for this to be successful it is very important that you arrive at your allocated time and not early or late. We will review this as we start the new school year, and if crowding in the car park and school entrance becomes an issue we will widen the timings further. As this would shorten the school day we would prefer not to do this and ask you to stick closely to the allocated timings.

If parents are able to stick to these timings and it looks as if we will have capacity to do so, we may be able to narrow the spread of drop off times further, which will give the children a longer school day.

Years	Start time	Home time	Entrance/Exit
Reception	9:00	3:15	Early Years
Year 1	8:45	2:50	Infant entrance
Year 2	8:55	3:05	Year 2 gate
Year 3	8:45	2:55	Year 3 side gate
Year 4	9:00	3:10	KS2 playground
Year 5	8:45	2:55	KS2 playground
Year 6	9:10	3:20	Main entrance

If you have more than one child at St James', you can drop them off at the same time as the latest sibling and collect at the same time as the earliest. Please do not wait in the car park to collect siblings.

We will continue to use the one-way system that has been successful so far. Parents and children need to enter via the vehicle gate and leave through the infant path and pedestrian gate. Miss Hayward and I will be able to help anyone who needs it.

St James' Bubbles

You may have heard the government speak of "bubbles" of children. We have referred to them as pods until now. This is a way of describing a self-contained group of children within the school. If there is an outbreak/confirmed case within the school, it should therefore be contained within a bubble.



As St James' is a large school we will work on the basis on year group bubbles of 90 children. Therefore all children from the same year group will be able to arrive, play outside and leave at the same time. We will maintain distancing between classes within year groups while inside the school buildings. That way any outbreak should be contained to a single class.

If there is a confirmed case at the school we will let parents and staff know the class which has been affected, but we will not let you know the name of the child/family unless this is essential for public health reasons, and we will do so only for the families who need to know. We will follow the advice of Public Health England in these situations, although we reserve the right to make any decision we feel necessary for the welfare of pupils and staff. The advice (at present) is that we will not be asked to close or partially close for a single confirmed case, but will need to take action if it appears that the virus is spreading within the school.

Lunches

Lunches will be packed only, at least initially, and will be eaten in the children's classrooms. We hope to be able to move to hot lunches served in the main hall after the first few weeks if it is safe to do so.

Playtimes

Playtimes will be staggered to ensure bubbles are separated and will always be outdoors. Therefore all children will need coats every day, regardless of how warm and sunny it may seem at the beginning of the day.

School uniform

From September the children will need to be in full school uniform (including school shoes) with a full PE kit.

Attendance

You may also have seen that attendance at school will be compulsory from the beginning of September. This will not apply if the pupil themselves has been asked to shield. If this is the case, please bring a copy of the letter to the school office.

Changing guidance

Please be mindful of the tendency for the advice to change depending on the developing situation over the summer. With this in mind, I will send out a letter in the last week of the school holidays. Hopefully this will be a short letter to confirm the arrangements that we will have already shared with you, but if there is a change in the local situation, or the guidance we have been given, we will let you know what we plan to do to accommodate this.

Classes for September

Please see the table below for the classes for next year. Transition is going to be difficult this year, but we are hopeful that your child's new teacher will have an opportunity to meet your children before the end of the school year.

The class name in brackets and italics is the name of the class the children have been in this academic year. Year 3 parents will receive a text to let them know which class their child will be in later today.



Reception	Class name	Maple	Cherry	Oak
	Teacher(s)	Mrs Coward & Mrs Herman	Miss Smith	Mrs O'Loan
	Teaching assistant(s)	Mrs Clark	Mr Jacob	Mrs Starritt
Year 1	Class name	Beech (<i>Cherry</i>)	Chestnut (<i>Oak</i>)	Ash (<i>Maple</i>)
	Teacher(s)	Mrs Mill & Mrs Shortland	Miss Greenfield & Mrs Ravenscroft	Mrs Cunningham & Mrs Sweatman
	Teaching assistant(s)	Mrs Ahmed & Mr Dillon	Mrs Fairweather	Mrs Hayers & Mrs Towler
Year 2	Class name	Rabbit (<i>Ash</i>)	Squirrel (<i>Chestnut</i>)	Hedgehog (<i>Beech</i>)
	Teacher(s)	Mrs Dennett	Mrs Belfield & Mrs Clarke	Mrs Williams
	Teaching assistant(s)	Mrs Connell & Mrs Penn	Mrs Morris & Mrs Navarro	Mrs Phillips
Year 3	Class name	Deer (<i>Hedgehog</i>)	Fox (<i>Squirrel</i>)	Badger (<i>Rabbit</i>)
	Teacher(s)	Mrs Naismith	Miss Stock	Mrs King & Mrs Simpson
	Teaching assistant(s)	Mrs Matthews	Miss Gibson	Mrs Vorster
Year 4	Class name	Stoat (<i>Class A</i>)	Dormouse (<i>Class B</i>)	Vole (<i>Class C</i>)
	Teacher(s)	Mrs Jones	Mr Wyke	Mrs Featherstone & Mrs Waller
	Teaching assistant(s)	Mrs Crane	Mrs Piper	Mrs Ledger
Year 5	Class name	Nightingale (<i>Dormouse</i>)	Swift (<i>Vole</i>)	Chaffinch (<i>Stoat</i>)
	Teacher(s)	Mr Pritchard	Mrs Sparks	Mrs Schone & Mrs Waller
	Teaching assistant(s)	Mr Fern	Mrs Tobin	Mrs Vaughan
Year 6	Class name	Osprey (<i>Swift</i>)	Kestrel (<i>Chaffinch</i>)	Owl (<i>Nightingale</i>)
	Teacher(s)	Mr Hodges	Mr Stevens	Mrs Holland & Mrs Raistrick
	Teaching assistant(s)	Mrs Simkins	Mrs Fahey	Mrs Lewis

Please note that not all TAs will be working full time in classes. TAs working with individual children will also be working in classes but have not been included in the table above.

Mobile phones and other smart devices

As time as gone on more and more children seem to be bringing mobile phones and other expensive smart devices to school. In the past we have always tried to discourage pupils bringing phones to school unless they are absolutely essential however it seems to have become an unwritten rule that as soon as you enter Year 6 you need a phone. Before anyone rushes out over the summer to buy the latest



iGooglesung, we would like to make it clear that pupils (of any age) are not allowed a mobile phone at school. If you feel that it is vital for your child to have a mobile phone in school, then we would ask you to explain, in writing, the reasons for this. If we as a school agree, permission will be granted in writing. The same goes for other smart technology enabled devices, such as smart watches, which are not suitable for children to bring to school. Any mobile phones, or similar devices will be confiscated by staff on sight to be returned to a parent at the end of the day. If the child continues to bring the device after this it will be confiscated for a week.

Years 2 to 5 day at school - reminder

Please take a look at the table below for how we will organise the children in years 2 to 5 to return to school for a day at the end of term.

The children have been allocated either Monday 20th July or Wednesday 22nd July based on their surnames. We have split the classes to ensure there are no more than 15 children in any one group.

As we are doing now, we are staggering starting and finishing times to avoid overcrowding and asking one parent only to drop off or pick up. Please arrive as close to your start/finish time as possible. If you have children in more than one year group, you can drop them off at the time of the latest group. Children do not have to queue, they can come straight into school at their allotted time. If you have not been into school over the last 4 months, we have a one-way entry and exit system. I will be on the gate to help and to welcome the children.

Please send your child to school with a packed lunch, and in school uniform where possible. The children can wear either trainers or school shoes. If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal, the kitchen will be able to provide a packed lunch if you wish.

Please remember to maintain social distancing on the way to and from school. Although it is not compulsory for your child to come to school for this day, we would strongly encourage you to send them in.

Year group	Class	Monday surnames	Wednesday surnames	Start/finish	Entrance/exit
Year 2	Hedgehog	A – Ki	Ku – Z	8:45/2:55	Infant entrance
	Rabbit	A – L	M – Z	8:55/3:05	Infant entrance
	Squirrel	A – P	R – Z	9:05/3:15	Infant entrance
Year 3	Badger	A – He	Hi – Z	8:45/2:55	Year 2 playground
	Deer	A – Har	Haw – Z	8:55/3:05	Year 2 playground
	Fox	A – L	M – Z	9:05/3:15	Year 2 playground
Year 4	Dormouse	A – L	M – Z	8:45/2:55	Main office
	Stoat	A – G	H – Z	8:55/3:05	Main office
	Vole	A – Ho	Hu – Z	9:05/3:15	Main office
Year 5	Chaffinch	A – K	L – Z	8:45/2:55	KS2 playground
	Nightingale	A – J	K – Z	8:55/3:05	KS2 playground
	Swift	A – K	M – Z	9:05/3:15	KS2 playground

John Tutt



July 2020

