

Head Teacher: Maura Furber

23.02.2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school on **Monday 8th March**. Breakfast club will recommence as usual. Please book in the usual way if you would like your children to attend this provision from the week beginning the 8th March. We will be in touch regarding after school clubs next week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your wonderful support and kindness during the last half term and for all your hard work and commitment with home learning. Thank you also to all the staff for their tremendous efforts, dedication and care towards the children during this unprecedented time. Finally, well done to all the children who have worked so diligently and shown great resilience and determination during these difficult times. We are so proud of each and every one of you and can't wait to have 'Team St Stephens' back together.

As you will obviously understand there will still need to be many protective measures in place to keep everybody as safe as possible. In line with the latest government guidance, we will update our risk assessment prior to the children returning. The latest version will be uploaded to the school website.

Protective measures will include the following:

- Staff will continue to test twice a week using lateral flow tests
- Regular hand washing throughout the day
- All adults **MUST** wear a face covering on the school grounds at all times unless they are exempt.
- Any child who has a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste and/or smell must not attend school and a test must be carried out. If positive, the school must be contacted immediately.
- All children will continue to be taught in class bubbles. Please help us not to mix the bubbles by ensuring that children from different bubbles continue to socially distance at drop off and collection times.
- We will continue to combine some classes for playtime and lunchtime provision, following our robust risk assessments in line with government guidelines. The 'mega' bubbles will be YF/Y1/Y2, Y3/Y4 and Y5/Y6. These worked very well during our last school provision.
- Please ensure that you socially distance from each other at collection and drop off times. We do appreciate how tricky this is despite a one way system due to the narrow entrances and exits, so we really appreciate your support with this.
- Please drop off and collect children at the appropriate times and use the designated entrances for your child's class. (Reminders of times and entrances will be sent out next week)
- Please ensure that your child wears lots of layers into school as the windows will be open for extra ventilation. Children will also be doing lots of learning outdoors so trainers are acceptable school footwear. School uniform is to be worn unless your child is doing PE /wild tribe when their kit may be worn into school to avoid changing. (Reminders of days will be sent out next week)

- If you need to contact a member of staff please phone the school office or email ststephens@andaras.org Please do not come into school or use the current on line messenger system that is being used for remote learning.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter. I feel very fortunate to say that at this point in time we have had no positive CV19 cases amongst our staff or pupils. Please rest assured we will do our utmost to keep everyone safe during this return to school. We know some of you may still be feeling anxious about the return but I do truly believe that the best place now for children is in school with their friends and teachers.

Kind regards

Maura Furber

Head Teacher

