

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School
Crescent Avenue
Over Hulton
Bolton
BL5 1EN



Head Teacher: Mr Simon Charnock

22/06/2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are well and continue to stay safe.

I'd like to start by saying how glad we all are that our keyworker children have now been joined by some of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. It is very uplifting to hear the children's voices and laughter, as well as see them and their parents and carers in/at school again and take another step back to normality again. Thank you to all those who have followed our guidelines on a safe return to school. Because this went so well, we were very quickly able to reduce the window of time for dropping off and picking up for our Reception and Year 1 bubbles.

The government recently announced that they have dropped plans for all pupils to return to school before the summer holidays. Whilst extremely disappointing, as a school we know it would be impractical under the current guidance. It has now been over 13 weeks since lockdown. With this in mind, the staff have set up **virtual meetings** to ensure that all the children, in groups, have the opportunity to see some of their friends, their current and next teachers before the end of this term – *see table 1*. We also have sent out information, instructions, rules and protocols by email as well as the log in details for the virtual meetings. These are also available on our website. Teachers will also outline a transition project for over the summer break.

The reports will still be sent out via email on Monday 6th July. For the first time, due to the unprecedented circumstances that brought an abrupt end to this academic year, a short video presentation of the children's learning experiences will also be sent before the end of term.

Changes to the holiday pattern for 2020/2021

Following discussions with governors and staff, we would like to shorten the dates of this year's Summer break by one week. This would mean returning to school on **Wednesday 2nd September** rather than Tuesday 8th September. We would then move this one week to the May half term holiday in 2021, meaning that we would break up in the summer term 2021 on Friday 28th May and return on Monday 14th June - the revised holiday pattern and term dates is attached.



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We feel that, after the amount of time that most of our children have not been able to attend school, a 7 week summer break is far too long. Additionally, as families are unable to get away this summer, having a two week break next May/June could be beneficial and maybe less expensive. Of course, if you have already planned to go away week beginning the 31st August then this absence would be authorised. If you have any questions or comments please contact school.

Another consideration in the above alteration in the holiday pattern was the aforementioned need for some form of **transition** for our children to their next year group. This new term dates will allow such transition where the children will be in the same class with the same teacher as this academic year on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd then they will 'move up' to their new class with their next teacher on Friday 4th September – there will be no changes to our teaching allocation. Our new Reception children will transition into school from Monday 7th September, the details of which have been sent separately.

Many of our Year 6 children are currently attending school as part of our re-opening plan but, as there are still lots of their peers who have made the decision not to return, we have not had the opportunity for the usual end of primary school celebrations. With this in mind, and whilst attempting not to break any with social distancing rules, we intend to host a 'Class of 2020' re-union event as soon as possible in September, when they can better enjoy each other's company without the restrictions that are currently in place. We will keep Year 6 parents informed as soon as we know any more.

As we regularly mention, if you have any concerns about your child(ren), please do not feel that you are on your own. If you have any concerns, queries, or anything else that we may be able to help you with, please contact the school and it will be passed on to the appropriate member of staff – we cannot address or respond to concerns that are discussed on social media platforms.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and please continue to stay safe

Simon Charnock
Head teacher



Table 1**Year group transition settings**

Year 5 → Year 6	Miss Gresty & Mr Glynn	<u>Thursday 25th June</u> Surnames A – J 1:30pm – 2:10pm Surnames K – Z 2:30pm – 3:10pm
Year 1 → Year 2	Miss Walsh & Mrs Bainbridge	<u>Monday 29th June</u> Surnames A-H 1:00pm – 1:40pm Surnames I - Z 2:00pm – 2:40pm
Reception → Year 1	Mrs Hunter & Miss Walsh	<u>Monday 29th June</u> All children 3:00pm – 3:30pm
Year 2 → Year 3	Mrs Bainbridge & Mrs Richardson	<u>Tuesday 30th June</u> Surnames A - K 1:00pm – 1:40pm Surnames L - Z 2:00pm – 2:40pm
Year 3 → Year 4	Mrs Richardson & Mr Shawcross	<u>Wednesday 1st July</u> Surnames A - K 1:00pm – 1:40pm Surnames L - Z 2:00pm – 2:40pm
Year 4 → Year 5	Mr Shawcross & Miss Gresty	<u>Thursday 2nd July</u> Surnames A -K 1:30pm – 2:10pm Surnames L – Z 2:30pm – 3:10pm

