

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

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

 CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD



**Head Teacher: Mr Simon Charnock**

27/08/2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that this update finds everyone safe and well and that you have all had an enjoyable summer. It has been such a long time since many of our pupils have been in school and our return will be very different for each child. Whilst we are sure that many of our children are very resilient, we are also aware that there will be some who are very anxious about their return. At the end of this letter, there are some suggestions that could help. We have also sent a booklet to share with your children prior to their return. One thing for certain, all the staff are very much looking forward to seeing everyone again and hoping for as quick a transition back to normality as possible.

### **School Re-opening**

Government have regularly issued guidance about the return to school for all in September. We have no doubt that you continue to have many questions about school re-opening for all children. We have continued to work through this documentation and guidance and update our re-opening policy and procedures as well as our Risk Assessment document which has been approved by the Health and Safety team at Bolton Council. These documents are also attached to this email or are available on the school website on the Newsletters page

### **Lost learning**

School prepared *Summer Home Learning* booklets which we hope helped support some of the lost learning from this term. Please could children bring them with them on their return to school whether they are complete or not. As we have previously mentioned, these will help the staff to assess the children's needs and support their learning in an effort to cover any lost learning during the lockdown period. A large part of the Autumn Term will include lessons to support the children's transition back into school and help further develop a positive mental and emotional well-being alongside what they already know and use with regard to Growth Mindset.

On our return to school, our first two days will be spent with their current class teacher and on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September they will have their first full day with their class teacher for the 2020-2021 academic year. Reception class 2020 will join us from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September in a phased transition into school in their first week.

Some very brief reminders:-

- We return to our School Uniform Policy and uniform is to be worn except on the children's PE or Games days when they can wear any sports kit. These days will be shared with your children on their 'moving up day' on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.



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- Children need only bring their reading wallet and a water bottle each day (and their packed lunch if they are not having school dinners). No back-packs or rucksacks please.
- Please adhere to the drop off and pick-up times so that we avoid crowds and congestion and our return to school runs as smoothly as possible.
- Please call or email the office if you have any queries or problems rather than visiting the office in person.

To help with your child's return to school, and if you have not already done so:-

1. **Don't pretend that school will look or feel the same**, it is important that the children know what to expect. Please talk to your children about the information that we have sent to you via email and that can be found on our website, especially the Children's Information Booklet.
2. **Children may be worried about being away from you**, especially if they have spent much of their lockdown at home. It is fine to acknowledge that it is difficult but not so difficult that they can't do it. It is also important that children know that not going back to school is no longer an option.
3. **Expect behaviour changes**, this is their way of dealing with emotions that they are not used to and a method of dealing with them. Please talk to them to help them understand what they are going through.
4. **No more late bedtimes**, many will have had 5 months of late nights and lie-ins. We need them to get back to a school-time sleeping pattern. The Children's Sleep Charity recommends bringing forward bedtimes by 15 minutes every couple of days and a regular wake up time is helpful, even a weekends initially.
5. **Children may will have lost some of their learning**, but please, no-one should worry. Some will have done lots at home during lockdown (some set by school, some from other sources); some with have done some work; some will have done none at all. That's fine. All we want is happy children back in our school. We will use our 'teacher superpowers' to do what all schools are doing all over the world, support our children in becoming the best that they can be. Children will soon re-adapt to their school work and will receive lots of focussed support from their class teacher in order to bridge any gaps in learning. We expect low levels of concentration at first. Over the next few weeks, please encourage lots of shared reading at home.

Whilst we can't predict how a return to school will affect our children, we can reassure you that we are doing our very best to ensure that school is as safe as it can possible be. We will be very much re-focussing on everyone's mental health and emotional well-being from the beginning of term. Our first newsletter will go into more detail about some of the support we are putting in place.

In the meantime, please email the office for any further queries if these are not answered by the documents that are posted on our newsletters page of our website.

God bless and please take good care, stay safe and stay well. We look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Simon Charnock  
Head teacher

