

## RETURN TO ST GEORGE'S SEPTEMBER 2020

### 20 FAQs

- 1) Will everyone be returning on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>?

*Yes, in years 1-6. It's a little bit different for the children in Early Years, who will have had a letter and Dojo message about this sent out yesterday.*

- 2) Will children be in split classes?

*No, they will be in class sized bubbles. What that means is that each class won't mix with other classes inside the building. There won't be any assemblies, playtimes will be split and small groups moving all over the school won't happen. Most will eat their lunches in the classrooms.*

- 3) How will they get in and out of school and still distance?

In the morning, we will open the playground gate at 8.35 and close it at 9.05 to extend times. There will be distanced cones outside for households to stand at. We will filter children straight into their classes so there aren't any lines or queues in the playground. There will be lots of staff to direct and help, especially at first. On the way out, it will be the same for everyone except Year 6, who will have their own entrance on to School Street.

- 4) What about distancing in class and around school?

The guidelines recognise that to completely enforce this is impossible. What we can do is take steps to place children distanced as much as possible and also avoid activities and situations where they are very close to each other, as much as we can.

- 5) What about hygiene and cross infection?

This is where we can make real changes, so that surfaces are cleaned more often and children will be hand washing between all different transitions and activities. Also, we have taken on extra hours and staff so that all surfaces like door handles, toilets and tables will be cleaned much more frequently.

- 6) What happens if someone feels ill?

The same as now. We check how children are (we have over 30 qualified first aiders, a First Aid trainer and two with nursing experience on our staff) and contact you. If they display Covid symptoms, a member of staff will sit with them in an identified quiet place till they are collected. Then all the guidelines that are already in place are followed.

7) What about face masks?

As things stand, face masks are not worn in school. However, if individual parents feel strongly that they should have them on, as long as it's safe that can happen.

8) Will children be able to play?

Yes! We will be making playtimes as normal and as fun as possible. There will be less children in the playground at a given time and more supervision. Games that are less likely to result in contact will be encouraged. They will be able to use apparatus, which we will of course keep clean.

9) Will we be expecting children to start the curriculum for their new year in September given some will not have been in school for six months?

Certainly not. We will be thinking about mental and physical well-being first and seeing who needs extra support. Then it'll be filling the gaps in their learning but while still making learning and teaching fun and interesting. When they feel settled and enjoy school, that's when children learn best. However, expectations of behaviour will remain high of course. Children also like clear boundaries.

10) What about SATS and other tests?

For the last school year, we did record (it was in children's reports) how the children did in their tests at Easter. Many children did very well for that stage and that should be celebrated.

We will test children again to see where they are in October. We are not going to give children tests the moment they come back- it's not fair and it's not the most important thing.

In 20-21, most tests are returning although schools have been promised by the government that what has happened will be taken into account.

11) What will happen at dinner times?

Most classes will eat in their rooms. We will have extra dinner staff and cleaners. Times will be different for the older and younger children. They will still be able to play. The children will get hot 'grab bags' or packed lunches. Lunch Shop will be the same.

12) The children have always enjoyed learning outside the classroom. Will that still happen?

Definitely but it'll be a little different. Every class (including Little Dragons) will get a turn for half a day every fortnight. We won't be going far but there are lots of great

places we can use locally. Our staff are very experienced in taking children out. There will be extra hygiene and cleaning. We will use school minibuses.

13) Will there still be Breakfast Club?

Yes, but there will be some new rules regarding distancing, keeping in family or class groups and hygiene.

14) Is the bus still going to run?

After a lot of thought and consulting health and safety consultants, yes. Like Breakfast Club, there will be new rules regarding seating, hygiene and grouping on the bus.

15) Will children go swimming in September?

As things stand, we are only allowed 30 in the pool and they have to spread out. So, if we do go, it'll be Year 6 first as they have most who can go in the deep end.

16) Will children be able to change their reading book each day?

No, two reading books will be sent out every Monday and then should come back on Friday. That gives us a gap of 72 hours. But there will be lots of opportunity in school for reading too of course. We will be reviewing this every half term.

17) Can children bring toys and equipment to school?

No, unless it's packed lunch or a water bottle. It reduces cross infection if we keep this to a minimum. Each child will have their own pack in class.

18) Will there be after school clubs?

Not for the first half term at least and possibly not till Christmas. Children will need to get used to the routine of school again and will find the first few weeks tiring.

19) Can parents/carers come in to school?

If you have an appointment, we will allow socially distanced meetings in the community room- or if we have a small amount in the hall. You won't be able to 'drop in' I'm afraid. Try and use Dojo and phone where you can. We will always try to help you and your children though!

20) Will all this be for the whole year?

No, we will review every half term and let you know. That way we can adapt to what happens next.

If you have any questions, please get in touch on [office@stgeorges.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:office@stgeorges.cumbria.sch.uk) or ring 01229 841240