



26th February 2021

Christ the King News

Dear Parents and carers,

Following on from Monday evening's announcement from the Government, we are all excited and thrilled that we can plan to fully open our school again to all pupils on Monday 8th March. Our priority for the children's return is to make them feel safe and to have planned opportunities for them to be practical learners, creative learners, to feel safe and enjoy being back at school.

The staff and I wish to pay testament to your patience, perseverance and kindness during this lockdown. Many have found it more challenging than last year with the increased expectation from the government for remote learning and tracked engagement. We are grateful that so many of our pupils have benefitted from new laptops and that these have helped to engage and support more pupils than otherwise would have been.

We look forward with hope, the signs of spring help, and will ensure that we protect what we truly value – your children's wellbeing, safety and learning.

Return to School

We recognise that whilst many pupils will be excited about returning to school and seeing their friends and teachers, there will be a good proportion that will be upset and anxious about coming back to school. Below are some of the questions that have arisen from concerned parents this week:

I am worried that it is still not safe to return especially with so many children in school – how will you keep them safe?

We are working closely with the local authority (BCP) and our trust (Plymouth CAST) to ensure that the return to school for all pupils and staff is safe and smooth. We are working on an updated risk assessment and reviewing the control measures that we implemented in the Autumn Term. Our current risk assessments is posted on the Covid-19 webpage on the school website.

Will all pupils return to school on Monday 8th March?

Yes, all pupils are expected to resume their normal school routine from Monday 8th March. They will arrive and leave school at the same times they did last term before Lockdown and will attend Monday through to Friday. This is the Government's expectation so that more parents can go back to work.

Year Group	Doors Open Pupils arrive	Registration/Learning Starts	Finish Time
Reception	8.30am	8.40am	2.55pm
Year 1	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm
Year 2	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm
Year 3	8.35am	8.45am	3.05pm
Year 4	8.35am	8.45am	3.05pm
Year 5	8.30am	8.40am	3.00pm
Year 6	8.30am	8.40am	3.00pm

My child is scared about returning to school. They worry about being safe, about leaving ‘Mum or Dad’ and worry about catching up with missed learning. How will you reassure them?

We are paying particular attention to the children’s mental health, well-being and their stamina. You can help prepare your child by developing a routine at home next week that mirrors the school routine: earlier bedtime, awake by 8am, wash, dress and engage with remote learning. Children who have engaged with remote learning and joined in with the live sessions will no doubt be better prepared. The live session with teachers and the recorded assemblies will also include reassurances for the children – please enable the children to watch these.

I am worried my child will not cope with 5 full days learning in a structured way?

The curriculum for the next half term is carefully planned to ensure there will be lots of opportunities for practical activities away from computers, lots of breaks and opportunities to relax and rest between learning activities.

Should children wear masks?

All staff will wear masks in school and visors when they are face to face teaching. Children are not expected to wear masks in school – where parents would prefer this to be the case they should contact the school prior to return so that we can advise on safe removal and changing of masks.

Will there be a one-way system onto school site?

We will keep both school entrances open for parents before and after school. There will not be the need for a one-way system as long as all parents continue to wear masks, social distance on the premises and walk single file. Please abide by these safety guidelines.

Will children need to wear uniform when then return?

Children should return in their usual school uniform and every effort should be made to adhere to the uniform policy. The only exceptions will be where pupils have outgrown school footwear and parents are unable to buy school shoes until the shops fully open.

Will Breakfast Club and After School Club be open?

Yes, breakfast club is open from 8am and after school club will run until 4.15pm. As lockdown measures ease nationally and the rate of infection for COVID 19 lessens, we will be able to extend ASC to a later closing. **PLEASE NOTE** that Lockdown Breakfast and after school club rotas will close and from 8th March parents will need to reapply for a place if they were not on the Autumn term rota.

Will there still be bubbles?

Yes, we will continue with year group bubbles with designated staff teams. All year groups will have separate break and lunch times and will not mix. Year group bubbles enable us to maximise the

learning opportunities for the pupils when they return whilst also maintaining our COVID-19 control measures.

Will there be Hot Lunches?

No. All pupils will need a packed lunch. Chartwell's information was emailed to parents on Thursday 25th February. Don't forget to order lunches through Chartwells by Sunday 28th February!

Will PE still be on set days?

Yes, classes will have the same PE days as last term – including Fit Fridays, etc. Children should come into school in their PE uniform on PE days – school PE uniform only please – no logo kit allowed.

What else can I do to prepare my child for their return to school?

Please reassure your children that the school is just the same as when they were here in December – they will instantly recognise it and feel at home.

Insist on good hygiene habits at home – hand washing, sneezing or coughing into their elbow or tissue, etc.

Bedtime routine – if bedtimes have drifted later start to gradually bring them forward again so that the children get used to their school routine.

Check Google Classroom / tapestry to check the curriculum your child's teachers have planned for this term – any lessons or activities you missed? The beauty of pre-recorded lessons is that you can go back over them. We don't mind if learning comes in late – it is better that the children have at least tried.

Shout Outs

- We pay testament to the admin team for managing the pupil registers for critical worker children and vulnerable pupils during this latest lockdown. This has never been an easy task with demand significantly beyond our 'safe' capacity. The team have worked tirelessly to balance the needs of so many CWV places and we are grateful to all parents for their cooperation and understanding.
- We give thanks and recognition to all parents and carers who have struggled during this lockdown to facilitate remote learning, and despite everything have remain patient and positive.
- We celebrate the efforts of our pupils who have joined in live lessons and persisted with developing their computer skills in order to access remote learning online. All who have engaged with the learning should feel proud of their efforts.
- We celebrate the efforts and creativity of our teaching staff who have planned lessons and worked additional hours to ensure access to learning, to feedback to pupils and engage with those that have found remote learning difficult.
- We are grateful to the tenacity of our Support staff who have taken care of the critical worker and vulnerable children in school since the beginning of January.

Book Week

I hope you all enjoy taking part with Book Week activities. I look forward to looking at all the Book Character spuds that they children create and trying to guess who the masked readers are!

Science Week

Science week provides the ideal opportunity for practical learning for children returning to school on 8th March. Being a real scientist and exploring problems and asking questions is a great way to reengage with school life.

School Class Photos

Class photos will take place on Monday 29th March 2021

School Video

Please follow the link below and share with family and friends:

<https://youtu.be/33ZmKW4ipS4>

Christ the King School Official Facebook Page

This half term we are launching an official Facebook page where we can post newsletters and important information for parents and carers. This half term the Governing Body and school annual questionnaire will explore issues of communication and ways that we can reach out to more parents.



Thoughts about LENT

- Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent.
- This year Ash Wednesday fell during the half term break. Lent is a season of penance, reflection and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.
- Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our lives; to think about how our actions, words and habits impact on others around us. When are we guilty of doing too much or too little?
- Lent is the perfect season to consider ways in which we can be generous to others and how we can reflect God's love to those around us.
- Traditionally Catholics give up something for Lent, e.g. chocolate, crisps, etc. But we also encourage our pupils to consider doing something extra – to carry out 'small acts of kindness'. This way we can shine 'faith, hope and love' to those around us.

Pray. Stop. Go.

Our theme for Lent this year is 'Pray. Stop. Go.' which is a child friendly interpretation of this same Gospel. Throughout Lent, our resources will encourage children to make their **prayer** life richer, to **stop** doing some things which in turn will free them to **go** out to others with acts of service. Please do ask children about their 'Lent Adventure'. Here's a teaser trailer to help you get excited:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

Let Us Pray

We give thanks for:

- Our half term break and time to recharge, away from the usual routine
- The plans being drawn up to bring our students back to school
- The vaccination programme, and all those involved, as it reaches more and more people every day
- Signs that Spring is on its way
- Our clergy who have prayed for us during this pandemic

We pray for:

- The smooth reopening of school on 8th March
- Those pupils and parents who may be worried about coming back into school
- Staff members who have recently lost close relatives
- Fr Chacko and all of our priests and local clergy

And finally, have a restful weekend and enjoy time with your loved ones. Look forward with hope for schools reopening, families and friends reconnecting.

Best wishes to you all.

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

faith
hope
love

