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## St James' Church of England Junior School

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**Headteacher:** Mr Andrew Beattie

*"With exploring minds, and faith; we grow and learn together."*

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### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **– A Parent's Guide to the reopening of St James' C of E Junior School in September 2021**

The following information is designed to share practical information to parents/children on how school will look, sound and feel upon returning to our Autumn term. The information is based on interpretation of the newly published (Aug2021) Local Authority Risk Assessments which can be found on our website ([http://www.stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk/serve\\_file/2374008](http://www.stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk/serve_file/2374008) & [http://www.stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk/serve\\_file/2374009](http://www.stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk/serve_file/2374009)).

The information is subject to change dependent on the local and national Covid picture and any subsequent government guidance:

#### **Will school have staggered drop offs and pick up times?**

No. Parents and children will come onto the school site together in the morning. The school bell indicates the start of the school day at 8:45am, children will move to their class line and will be escorted into class by their teacher. On wet mornings, children (but not parents) will be able to shelter from the rain in the school hall and will be lined up and walk to class from the hall at 8:45am.

Pick up time is 3:10pm. All children will be dismissed from the classroom doors. Parents will come onto site and wait by the class exit. Exits will be well signposted in those initial weeks and staff will be able to direct you if needed.

As is typical of previous years, Year 5 & 6 children are allowed to leave the site by themselves, either to meet parents in nearby parked cars or to walk home.

\*We would ask that all parents are mindful of social distancing during these times\*

#### **Do I need to wear a mask whilst dropping off/picking up?**

There is no expectation for parents to wear masks. However, some of the exits can be quite crowded so we appreciate that a proportion of parents may feel more comfortable in doing so. If parents would prefer to wear masks while on site, they are more than welcome.

#### **How will my child's classroom look?**

Class sizes and layout will largely return to how things were 'Pre-Covid'. Desks will be grouped into tables of approx. 6 children. Children no longer need to sit in rows and face the front. Large groups will allow for discussion and shared partner work. Children will be given their own zip folder to store their stationery and



take this when moving to new classes. Teachers will be able to work closely with your child when needing help, but only fleetingly before moving on.

### **Is my child allowed to bring in their own stationery?**

Yes, although we provide all the necessities for the classroom including a zip folder to use when moving class, we do appreciate that some children like to bring their own colours, etc.

### **Do they need to bring anything else with them?**

A rucksack bag to help with carrying reading books, any paper-based homework, a water bottle and a daily healthy morning snack (fruit or breaded product) are typical.

### **Will my child be able to mix with friends at breaktimes?**

Yes. Playtimes and lunchtimes will no longer be staggered meaning that they can mix with other classes and year groups. However, there will be some restrictions to stop the lunch hall becoming too crowded. Thorough hand-washing will continue to be important before and after break times.

### **Who will teach my child?**

Your child will be taught by their class teacher and teaching assistants. Children may move to other classes for maths groups and be taught by that teacher. Additional music/sport teaching will restart this term. Information will be sent out into how to sign up for music tuition/sports coaching.

### **How do I communicate messages to the school/my child's class teacher?**

Like in recent times, we would encourage you call or email in your questions and queries. For passing informal messages, the headteacher and staff will be present on the yard each morning. For larger more formal issues, please telephone (01946) 695311 or email [admin@stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk)

### **Will Breakfast and After-School Club be open?**

Yes our Breakfast and After-School Club will be up and running on the first day back Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The EBASC (Early Breakfast and After School Club) will be held in 'The Lodge' which is the outbuilding that can be seen through the blue gates to the right of the school office. Children can attend breakfast club anytime from 7:50 am and attend after school club anytime until 5:15pm. Parents can drop off and pick-up children via the blue gate where the video bell will be situated. To support staffing needs, we would encourage you to make your booking a week in advance through SchoolMoney, or by emailing into school office on [admin@stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk) to leave your booking details. Payment remains at £3 for breakfast club and £ for after school club with all payments made through SchoolMoney, or via childcare voucher payments.

### **What PPE will be worn in school?**

Staff will wear PPE whilst giving first aid. Staff are not obliged to wear masks in class although some staff may make the choice to do so when working closely with individuals/groups.

### **What hand/respiratory hygiene routines will be in place?**

Exactly same as before. Children will be reminded of our hygiene rules during these initial days/weeks including:

- 'Catch It, Kill It, Bin It' message.
- Hand sanitising routines frequently throughout the day.



- Wiping down of IT equipment when finished using them.
- Windows and doors open in all rooms, even during colder weather.
- Being mindful of social distancing with staff.

**Will movement around the school be restricted?**

One-way systems will remain. Teachers will remind all children the correct ways to enter/exit and move to different rooms. The school will no longer have bubbles and therefore spaces such as the library, school office and school hall can be shared across all year groups.

**Does my child come to school in their PE kit?**

This has worked well during Covid times so will remain. All classes will come to school in their brand new school PE Kit on the day of their PE lesson. Teachers will produce a class bulletin for the children to bring home so that you can check the PE day for your child. This will also appear on the class page of the school website if it happened to go missing. As before, if the weather is cold, the children can wear tracksuit bottoms and of course their jumpers/hoodies over the top of their kit.

**Will my child have collective worship/assembly time?**

For now, the video assemblies look to be coming to an end – hurray!!! We will now be able to host real assemblies face to face in the school hall and potentially in our church.

**Will my child still be able to go on school trips, swimming lessons and extra clubs?**

Yes, we are arranging for swimming lessons to restart and are working on bringing in music and sports teachers to develop the excellent extra-curricular provision we once delivered – again another hurray!!! School trips may still go ahead after thorough risk assessment by the Head and school leadership team. Residential school trips tend to be arranged for Easter Summer term so we are hopeful that we will be able to attend such events.

**What do I do if someone in my family starts to become unwell?**

Report to school immediately where we will support you in where to access a PCR test. We will then speak to Public Health England and will advise you on your given situation.

**How will my child be supported if they have to isolate?**

Any child who has to isolate for Covid reasons will be supported with remote learning via our Seesaw platform.

I hope that you have found this information useful. If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Andrew Beattie  
Headteacher

