

SUDLEY INFANT SCHOOL



Dear parents and carers,

We hope you and yours are safe, well and managing with the difficult times we find ourselves in. It seems very odd that we have not been with **all** the children these last few weeks. We know that some families have sailed through lockdown and others of you have struggled for various reasons, it's been the same for the staff and governors too. However, the staff have been so delighted to receive such positive messages from so many of you which has been a real boost for everyone here.

As we start our new school year with a very different Autumn term, you will notice there are many changes in how we are operating as a school. We are following government guidance and putting in several controls to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19. You can see a full copy of our Covid-19 risk assessment on our website. We will regularly review our risk assessment as guidance from the government is updated.

Whilst the government have indicated that the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased and the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, it is important that our whole school community work together to protect each other.

We have organised our school to keep children in clear and consistent 'class bubbles'. This will help us as a school to limit the number of contacts children have with different people whilst still delivering an exciting curriculum. As all our children are infants and find social distancing a challenge we will endeavour to do our best. Each school has to decide how best to operate and cannot be compared with other schools in South Liverpool.

Since the lockdown started in March, each of us will have had different experiences and we ask that everyone in our school community is respectful of each other and their individual feelings. If you are dropping off or picking your child up from school, we ask that you respect other people and comply with social distancing guidance. We ask if it is possible that you walk your child to school to reduce congestion at the school gate. At the very least, we expect parents to slow down if driving around school and to respect our neighbours. Congestion needs to be avoided and drivers need to take care when close to school.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you and your children can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

It is important that outside of school we all follow the government guidance around Covid-19, particularly the Stay at Home guidance below and do not bring your child into school.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

If you do keep your child off school due to Covid-19 symptoms please ensure that you let us know this when you register your child's absence.

As a school if your child is off school due to self-isolating we will provide school work, so they can keep up their studies.

If your child presents Covid-19 symptoms in school we will take your child to a safe area in school and contact you immediately to pick them up. Please make sure that your emergency contact details are up to date and correct.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

It is vitally important that anyone who presents with Covid-19 symptoms get tested as soon as possible.

If someone from within school is confirmed with Covid-19 we will get in touch with the parents and carers of any children who have been in close contact with this

person. This is likely to be children from their class or 'bubble' or if they have been in close contact through other groups such as after school or breakfast club. These children will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. Other members of the household **do not** need to self-isolate, unless your child also develops symptoms. Full details and instructions will be provided at the time. We will also send information to our wider school community as a reminder to our families of what actions you can take to reduce the spread of the virus.

Last week the Department for Education issued guidance to all schools regarding re-opening in September 2020. We also received guidance from the Liverpool LA to aid schools in finding a way forward for September. The guidances are very detailed and the most important point for our families is that all children in all year groups will be expected to attend school full-time from September 2020.

Schools have been directed to ensure the following are in place from September:

- Arrangements for people (staff and pupils) who are ill to stay at home
- Systems for robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements within schools
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace if cases of Covid-19 occur
- Detailed risk assessments

We have also been asked to give consideration to:

- How to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential contamination , so far as is reasonably practical
- Grouping children in groups (bubbles) where possible
- Avoiding contact between those groups/bubbles where possible

We have posted a document on the school website this week that highlights the rise in cases in this area of Liverpool and how it is important to proceed with caution.

How will we plan for the wider opening in September?

The Department of Education have stated that schools should assess their circumstances and if class sized groups are not compatible with managing logistics within and around school they can look at implementing Year Group Bubbles. It is not a one size fits all solution. As an infant school we intend to keep class bubbles as separate as possible during the day but whole year group bubbles will join together for playtimes and lunch.

School day and routines

Children will be coming into school in a staggered way to avoid congestion. This means that the school day will start from 8.40 as we cannot reduce the amount of teaching time for children.

	Start of day	End of day
Surnames A-G	8.40am	3.05pm
Surnames H-N	8.45am	3.10pm
Surnames O-Z	8.50am	3.15pm

Please see the map on the school website which shows entrances and exits for each class. We ask that only **one** parent/carer drops off and leaves the school site immediately after drop off. Please do not congregate on school grounds. This also means that staff will be unable to deal with queries on the doors/playground at the end of the day. Parents and carers should contact the school office by telephone if they have a query or concern.

Inside the classroom

The classroom resources that are needed have been returned to the rooms after the childcare provision. Reception classes will be set out in areas of learning. The Year 1 and Year 2 rooms will have the desks in rows facing the front of the class. Classroom ventilation is important and windows will always be open for this reason. Book bags and reading books will be sent home once a week and returned books will be kept separate for 48 hours. Teachers and Learning Support staff will be allocated to one bubble where possible and good records will be kept of staffing in the event of an outbreak. Social distancing will take place when possible, but with younger children this is not always possible. The children will access a broad, balanced curriculum. There will be a focus on English, Maths and wellbeing but will include all other subjects. P.E will take place. Currently the guidance doesn't allow class or group singing. Assemblies will also take place only in bubbles. Children need to bring a clear water bottle marked with their name. We ask that parents and carers wash them and refill them for the next day. P.E bags including both indoor and outdoor kits will be kept in school on coat pegs and sent home at the end of each half term.

Playtimes

The children will have playtime outside in their own allocated year group playground space. Where possible they will not mix with the other year groups. They will have direct access to their own bubble's toilets.

End of School day

Please see our school map to make sure you are waiting in the correct area.

Parents and carers are asked to stand away from the doors and to socially distance on the playground.

Please see the time above of pick up. Parents and carers need to leave the school site immediately after they have collected their child/children and do not allow the children to play on any equipment in the playgrounds. Scooters and bikes cannot be left on the school premises.

Hygiene and Cleaning

The children will be encouraged to follow essential hygiene practices for handwashing and coughs/sneezes throughout the school day following a 'catch it, bin it, kill it approach'. We will also ensure social distancing is observed where possible on the school site and will regularly clean and disinfect surfaces as well as objects that are touched frequently.

SUDSI Breakfast Club

This will continue to take place in the Grey Room but numbers may be limited. The children will be seated in year groups together. We have a separate risk assessment for Breakfast Club.

After school activities

This is currently under review and further details will follow in the Autumn term

Contacting school outside of drop off and collection times

Parents and carers are reminded that they are not allowed to come onto the school site outside the drop off/collection times without an appointment. Queries should be made by telephone on Parent line 728-9639.

I would like to close by reminding all of us that we have a role to play to ensure that our children and school community remain safe.

Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Ms R Thomas, staff & governors