



Tilston Parochial
CE Primary School

Bringing out the Best in Everyone.
'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5:11

Date: 18th May 2020

Dear Parents

My apologies for not sending out a newsletter on Friday, we had one prepared, outlining arrangements for a possible reopening, however Cheshire West and Chester are currently reviewing the situation, and have asked us not to make any final arrangements until the local authority are confident scientific evidence shows it is safe for reopening.

Following the announcement last Sunday, we have not received any further announcements, and as it stands nothing has changed at Tilston Parochial Primary School. We continue to offer childcare for critical keyworkers, and teachers will continue to plan online learning daily. We will continue to provide daily online learning activities for all year groups until the end of the academic year.

As we await further guidance from the Department of Education and Cheshire West and Chester, we have completed risk assessments in-line with the proposal of a phased return and the DFE guidance. I have been phoning parents to talk through any concerns and to gain your thoughts on a possible reopening. It is key that communication from school is open and honest in order for you to make an informed decision. I will continue to update you when further advice is available. Please do not hesitate to phone school to talk through any concerns you have.

As part of our detailed Recovery Plan, thorough risk assessments have been carried out by senior leaders and shared with all staff and governors. Our plan is likely to change in the coming weeks as we receive more guidance, however I feel it is important to share some safety measures we will be implementing, if we do reopen in the near future.

The health and safety of pupils, staff and our school community is of paramount importance. IF schools reopen, they will operate very differently than they did in March, before the Covid-19 pandemic. Please see below some of the measures we will be putting in place when we do reopen which are outlined in the DFE guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

Headteacher: Mrs Kelsey Mort

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Address: Church Road, Tilston, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 7HB

Email: admin@tilston.cheshire.sch.uk

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Bubbles/Family Units

- The different year groups identified by the government will be taught in separate bubbles/family units.
- They will not mix throughout the school day with other year groups.
- They will have designated play areas for their year group, and they will be taught by the same team of staff.

Why are we organising school this way?

- By teaching in bubbles, we can ensure the risk of infection is minimised.
- Limiting the number of children your child will come into contact with will minimise the risk of infection.
- If a child or member of staff displays symptoms, they will self-isolate for 7 days.
- If a member of staff or child tests positive, they will self-isolate for 14days.
- If a member of staff or child tests positive, all parents will be notified.
- We will have maximum class sizes of 16.
- Each class has a designated outdoor learning area and we will teach outdoors as much as possible.

Dropping off and collection times

- Each year group will be assigned a drop off and collection time and we expect all parents to support us by adhering to these times. All safety measures will be implemented to keep us ALL safe and we ask that you respect our Recovery Policy.
- If young children need to be accompanied across the yard, we will limit this to one person only.

Handwashing

- Additional handwashing stations will be available in all classes.
- ALL staff and children will wash hands at specific times in the day and whenever they sneeze, touch their faces and at other times that puts them at risk.

Breaktimes

- Children will wash their hands at the start of breaktime.
- Children will play in their class year group 'Bubbles.'
- The school field will be split, and children will access their year group area only. There will be NO mixing with other year groups during playtime.
- Children will wash their hands as they re-enter school.
- Staff will wash hands as they enter the staffroom.
- Staff will use the staffroom for storing food and will eat in the classrooms with children.

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Uniform

- Children and staff will need to protect families when they return from school. All staff and children must remove clothes as soon as they arrive home and shower to avoid putting family members at a greater risk.
- All clothing should be laundered promptly.
- Our expectation is that children would return in school uniform. We do expect fresh clothing daily and would welcome your views on whether school uniform is manageable.

Personal Protective Equipment- PPE

- The guidance and scientific evidence states, school staff and children will not need to wear PPE in school.
- PPE will be used to administer first aid and for intimate care. This is our usual practice.

Lunchtimes

- Children will wash their hands at the start of lunchtime.
- Children can either bring in a packed lunch or buy a school lunch.
- We are currently discussing options with Edsential. We may only provide school packed lunches and not hot cooked meals.
- Mrs Gibson will clean all toilets and hand washing facilities with bleach during lunchtime. Tables and all work surfaces will be cleaned.

Reading Books

- The Covid-19 virus stays on paper for up to 6 hours and up to 6 days if laminated.
- We will not be sending any reading books home.
- **Children will not need to bring book bags to school.**

Cleaning

- A deep clean has been carried out with all carpets cleaned, desks and all surfaces disinfected thoroughly.
- Additional cleaning will take place at midday to ensure toilets, sink areas and classrooms are disinfected each day.
- A thorough deep clean, using bleach, will be carried out at the end of each day.
- Regular cleaning will take place in all classes throughout the day.

Teaching and Learning

- Home learning will continue until the end of the academic year.
- ALL children, whether at home or in school, will work through the same work set by the class teacher.
- We will continue to support home learning, however comments from teachers will be restricted due to teaching commitments in school.

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If the government decide to open schools, Tilston Parochial Primary School will implement our Recovery Plan to ensure it is safe. We ask that ALL parents continue to adhere to the lockdown rules and guidance provided by the government to keep children and families safe. The governors at Tilston Parochial Primary School will withdraw any place if we are informed of families breaching lockdown rules. We will ask families to self-isolate and return after this period. **WE WILL NOT HAVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN, STAFF AND OTHER FAMILIES COMPROMISED BY THE IRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS OF OTHERS.**

After speaking to many parents, I appreciate many are waiting for further advice and scientific evidence before deciding. I would like to reassure you that you do not need to make a final decision by June 1st or when schools reopen.

If we do open on June 1st. or later, parents have a right to return to school as and when you feel it is safe to do so. Plans will be made to ensure children can join their class 'bubble' at any point across the half term. You have a right to decide on what is best for your child and we will fully support your decision.

I appreciate this is a very difficult time for you all and huge decision to make. Please do not hesitate to contact me to talk through our plans.



This Weeks Wellbeing Task:

Make a proud cloud. Draw a big cloud shape on a piece of paper and fill it with things you are proud of.

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Hi Everyone

I love this poem, You
are all superheroes!

I hope everyone has
had a good week,
stay safe and see you
soon!

Love from Mrs
Huxtable



What makes a Hero?

*You might think a hero wears a cape
Tied around their shoulders with a bit of tape.
Superpowers like flying high,
Who never feel the need to cry.*

*But those children who stay at home,
Unable to wander and roam.
Occupying themselves in a new routine,
Behind their doors where they can't be seen.*

*Are every bit heroes to our nation.
Their resilience, optimism, and determination,
To help the coronavirus disappear.
Soon there will be hope not fear.*

*So heroes stay strong and proud.
The sun is behind every cloud.
It won't be long before your work is done,
And you will be back at school having lots of fun.
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FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We understand that this current crisis is having a significant impact on all families-emotionally and financially.



Universal Free School Meals provide school lunches for all children in reception through to the end of Year 2. You do not need to apply for this.

Your child may be entitled to an income based free school meal if you get any of the following:

(This also applies to children currently accessing the universal free school meal offer)

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

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- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Please follow the link to complete a short online form to check if you are eligible. ALL children from Nursery to Year 6 can apply. If you meet the criteria, your child will be entitled to a free school dinner and school receives a Pupil Premium Grant. The Pupil Premium Grant is £1345 per eligible pupil, per year, to provide additional support and enrichment activities in school.

If your child is entitled to income based Free School Meals (NOT Universal Free School Meals), we can provide school packed lunches daily during these closures. Please inform us if you meet the criteria and we can discuss collecting meals from school.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-meals.aspx>

Tilston Community Support

We are here to help and support you. Tilston Parish Council are providing food parcels for families needing a little extra help and support. I am also working very closely with the Whitchurch Foodbank and can issue vouchers to support families in need.



Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need any help, advice, or support during these very challenging times. All conversations and information shared will be treated confidentially.

Thank you

Thank you for sharing your pictures and videos of your 'Little Heroes.' It was lovely to see and hear how proud you all are of your own children during these very challenging times. We too are extremely proud of how well they are all coping and supporting each other.



Thank you!
#clapforourcarers

I hope you all had a lovely weekend. I will keep you updated on the situation of reopening primary schools.

Best wishes

K Mort

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Headteacher

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