



St Ippolyts C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. R. E. Peddie BEd(Hons) NPQH

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31st December 2020

Dear Parents,

I do hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break, even though I expect your plans had to change as we entered Tier 4 restrictions.

Following on from the Prime Minister's statement yesterday evening, I am writing to update you with a few things regarding school arrangements and provide a few useful reminders for the start of term.

Please do take a moment to read through this letter in full.

1. As outlined in the Prime Minister's address, our school will **reopen as planned for all pupils** on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Our staggered timings will continue as before.
2. Please continue to let us know of any symptoms or cases in your household by emailing me directly on head@stipps.herts.sch.uk and ***err on the side of caution by keeping your child at home if they are unwell***. As before, we ask that you have a plan in place for being able to collect your child immediately if they become unwell in school and ensure that your contact details are up to date so we can get hold of you straight away. If your child has been unwell or had a Covid test over the holidays, please let us know before the start of term.
3. We continue to ask **all parents, carers and staff to have correctly worn face coverings** on the school run at morning drop-off and afternoon collection times (unless medically exempt).
4. Please continue to **avoid face to face discussions** with teachers where possible; instead, please use the class email address to communicate with them or contact the school office to ask for a telephone call.
5. Please ensure you socially distance from others carefully, **arrive and leave promptly** and avoid socialising with other parents on the school site, the hill or village green. This is particularly important for **Class 1 parents** to note; gathering outside the classroom gate to chat causes an obstruction for people trying to access the school office.
6. To minimize the number of adults on site, **only one adult** should accompany children on the school run.
7. Further to my letter before Christmas, **Class 4 parents are asked not to leave their children unattended** on the playground before school.

8. We will continue to have a well-ventilated building and use outdoor learning where possible. Therefore, it is important that children have **warm clothing**, ideally in layers eg: a vest or T-shirt under their school uniform, warm tights, school jumpers with a fleece over the top. You may wish to supply spare clothing in their PE bag (please make sure everything is named clearly).
9. Please ensure that your child brings back their PE kit (indoors and outdoors) and pencil cases on the first day back.
10. We will not be reinstating after school clubs at the moment. Early Bird Club will continue.

It was testament to everyone's total cooperation and effort that we were able to remain fully open for the entire autumn term with no positive cases in school. This is a real achievement, and I am so very grateful for your support and understanding. I am acutely aware that some of the arrangements are not convenient for you, but I also know that you understand why these are necessary and unavoidable.

As we enter the spring term with cases on the rise significantly in the local area, I am now asking you all to continue to do your bit to ensure that this remains the case in the weeks and months to come.

You may be aware that in some areas of Hertfordshire (Watford, Broxbourne, Hertsmere, Three Rivers), all primary schools have been closed for the first two weeks of term. Whilst we sincerely hope that these closures do not head further north to affect us, we must be realistic and accept that there could be a possibility of this in the future. If this happens, our plans for remote learning will be used. Please check that you can access your child's Google Classroom account where work will be posted, and teachers will be scheduling 'Google Meets' with their classes. There is more information on the school website: <http://stipps.herts.sch.uk/children/google-classroom>

Undoubtedly, some people may be feeling anxious about returning to school. Please be assured that we will continue to do our utmost to keep children and staff safe in school through our adapted routines, enhanced cleaning regimes and vigilance for signs of illness. However, it is often what happens outside of school that can cause problems. I would therefore implore you to avoid unnecessary mixing and risk-taking such as play dates, sleepovers, birthday parties etc. I know that this may sound draconian, but it would be a dreadful shame if we had a class closure due to things beyond our control.

I extend my sincere thanks to you all for your continued efforts in working to keep our school fully open last term and I look forward to welcoming you all back next week. I wish you all a Happy New Year, and I have no doubt that you will join me in hope and prayer for a better 2021.

Kind regards,



Mrs RE Peddie

Headteacher

