

William Martin Schools and Nursery

Executive Headteacher: Gina Bailey

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Experiencing life in all its fullness

Friday 5th June 2020

Parent Update

Dear Parents,

We have had a quiet and calm return to school after the half term holiday, I certainly appreciated having a rest as did the many staff who continue to work in our schools, so my thanks go out to our key worker families in supporting us with closing on the Monday and Friday of last week.

St James' has now reopened on their own site, my thanks go out to all their staff and families for helping us provide provision throughout lockdown for so many of our joint key worker and vulnerable families, we have made many new friends across the schools.

Congratulations

I would like to share my congratulations to Mrs Kearney who has now been appointed as Head of Schools, for both the Infants, Nursery and Juniors; and am also pleased to say that I have been appointed permanent Executive Head of William Martin Schools. I am very excited about the future and continuing to work with such a brilliant team of staff!

Edenred Vouchers

The voucher scheme, thankfully, is now running more smoothly, Mrs Hogg and our new Welfare and Office assistant, Mrs Lucy Bridges will now be your points of contact if you have any further problems. If you do have any issues email them on admin@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk or welfare@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk. Many thanks again to Robert Halfon, for all his assistance with resolving this matter.

Social Distancing

We have had a number of phone calls from parents asking what school looks like with our new social distancing measures so I have included a few photos:



Our Core Christian Values: Perseverance, Justice, Respect, Trust, Compassion, Responsibility, Forgiveness, Peace

Hand washing stations are set up in every classroom, children have to use anti-bac gel when first entering the building, and then either hand wash or gel every hour. Children will then use anti-bac gel when leaving the building.



All classrooms are required to have a lidded bin for the disposal of used tissues and anti-bac wipes. All laptops are anti-bac wiped after each use.



All classrooms have had:

- tops cleared,
- soft furnishing removed,
- tables spaced out in a format dependant on the age of the children,
- in the Infants - all shared resources are plastic and are cleaned at the end of a session
- in the Juniors resources are allocated per child and placed in a named tray



Children are allocated to a bubble of a maximum of 11 children, and are allocated a classroom and a toilet. Children do not leave this classroom except for break and lunchtimes. Children do not mix with other bubbles. Staff are allocated to a bubble, but may have to move as we widen our provision.

At present, we are only able to provide packed lunches for key workers and vulnerable children due to staff shortages.



Access through playgrounds and pathways, have social distancing markers to guide parents whilst queuing to drop off and collect - it does feel a bit like queuing to shop at Tesco's which of course we all enjoy!!!!!!!

As you can see, we have worked extremely hard to create a safe environment for our children, however I must stress that we cannot guarantee social distancing at school. We have regular reminders with our expectations, however younger children find this hard to follow all the time.



Due to the bubble system, we are restricted to the number of children we are able to provide a space for, which is why we ask parents to book their child a place so that we can organise provision accordingly.

Widening our Offer to Year 1

Now that our Reception children are settling in and our numbers remain low, we are able to make plans for widening our offer to Year 1 pupils. We anticipate our offer commencing on Monday 15th June 2020, from 9 till 12.00 from Monday to Thursday.

Due to the large amount of preparation needed to open a classroom safely, **parents will need to book their child a place**. Class sizes are limited to 11 places, therefore children will not be allowed to attend without booking first. Unfortunately, we cannot offer part time places.

If you would like to book your child a place in this provision, please email Mrs Hogg on:

admin@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk

The deadline for booking a place is Tuesday 9th June at 12, midday.

Please note the offer we put in place will be dependent on the number of bookings we receive, and the classrooms with appropriate facilities we have available.

What will children need to bring/wear?

All children are expected to wear **clean** school uniform. Please ensure on sunny days they have a hat and have had sun cream applied before school.

Please do not allow your child to bring anything from home, including bags and soft toys. The only exception to this is lunch boxes for key worker and vulnerable children.

Can my child wear a mask?

Children are not permitted to wear face masks, following the DFE guidance. There is no expectation that staff will routinely wear face coverings, however personal choice is respected. Staff may wear PPE in very specific circumstances.

Please also note that, especially with our younger children, it is possible that a member of our staff may have to comfort your child if they become distressed.

Year 6

I am aware that many children in Year 6 will be wondering when school will be widening the provision to include them. We have not forgotten you Year 6, and are very much looking forward to seeing you all again soon!!!!

Government and DFE guidance has stipulated that schools should re-open starting with our youngest children first, and it is this guidance we are following! Nevertheless, we do have plans for you to return, but this will be dependent on how the younger years settle in safely. Be patient, your time will come!





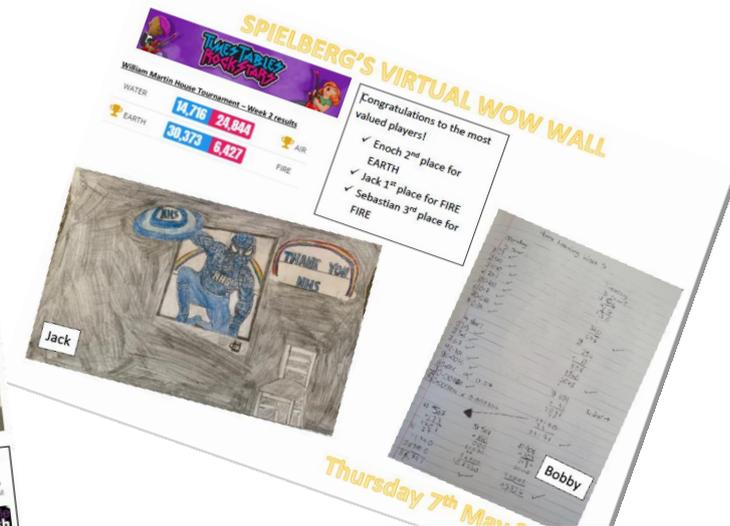
Home Learning

For those children in Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and 6 and those in Reception who do not return, we will continue with home/remote learning. I have included some of the classes amazing Wow walls so you can see how hard our children have been working at home.

Home learning will continue to be emailed once a week. For those who cannot access this online, we have packs available to be collected. Where possible, we will try to keep teachers contact with their class maintained.

If your child is not attending school we need to maintain regular contact with you. As we have been doing since lockdown.

We would greatly appreciate parents emailing their child's teachers once a week to avoid us having to phone you, as this is taking up a lot of our staff's time.



So thank you again for taking the time to read a rather long letter. I hope that I have been able to answer your questions, and the photos have given you a taste for what school looks like at the moment.

I have no doubt that many of you are anxious and worried; making a decision whether you wish you child to return to school is a very personal decision for each family and we respect that.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any further questions or worries.

Very best wishes and stay safe.

Gina Bailey
Executive Headteacher



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