

# William Martin Schools and Nursery

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*Experiencing life in all its fullness*

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020



## Parent Update

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you all well, and you are all enjoying the beautiful weather. I wanted to spend a little time explaining the current situation in school, so that you all have a clearer understanding of the challenges we are working with to ensure the school remains safe; whilst we also continue to provide an excellent education for those children attending school and those home learning. I have then provided details of our plans for wider opening and the revised end of term date.

I have also included in the second part of the letter information you will need for the children's return in September regarding medicines, school uniform, snacks and children who arrive at school late in the morning.

### Current Position

The school is operating with 9 bubbles across the school, 4 are morning only and 5 are full time. Currently we have 25% of children attending the school. We have 12 classrooms which we can use (including the Nursery building) and 3 which we can't, due to lack of toileting facilities or no access, except via another classroom, thus breaking social distancing guidelines.

We have had a considerable number of staff working from home due to shielding/social distancing, including all the kitchen staff, most of the Nursery and Reception staff as well as a number of teachers, LSAs and SLT. Happily, some of these staff have started to return since the half term break and are continuing to do so over the next two weeks.



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Alongside daily teaching and planning, staff are producing home learning, communicating with children twice a week, writing a new curriculum for next year to ensure the children are able to catch up on their lost learning and carrying out welfare checks/ sometimes visiting homes to ensure every child has weekly contact with the school.

Staff are responsible for clearing and preparing classrooms as our offer widens. This includes removing all soft furnishings, clearing tops, shelves, tables, chairs, prepping equipment and creating hand washing stations.

Staff are also carrying out daily, and weekly phone calls with vulnerable families, delivering breakfast parcels and providing 1-1 support/ counselling in school for pupils who need extra time.

The school website is nearly ready to go live, as soon as everything is on it - I will share the address with you.

### Extended and wider opening of the schools

#### Reception

A parent has asked if we can open the Reception classes in the afternoon. We are considering this, but this will be dependent on the number of parents who express an interest, and also the staff we have available to cover the lunchtime and help make school lunches.



We are not able to combine the Reception bubbles, therefore we are setting a **minimum number of 5 places being requested per class** to allow each Reception bubble to be extended.

Based on this we will then be able to confirm our offer, we would expect it to commence on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, when we have more staff available to work.

If your child is currently in the Beatrix Potter or Eric Carle bubble and would like to extend your child's place to include the afternoon please email:

[admin@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk) stating your child's name. The deadline for applications will be Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at midday.

#### Year 6

Happily, as promised, the school is now in a position to widen our offer to Year 6 children. We have 3 classrooms available for bubbles of 11. The offer will be based on the number of places being requested, the availability of classrooms and the staff we have available.



We anticipate this offer to commence on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, we will confirm what the offer will be once we have an idea of numbers.

If you would like to book a place in the Year 6 provision please email:



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[admin@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk) stating your child's name. The deadline for applications will be Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at midday.

### **End of Term**

Due to the need to prepare schools for the changes required for opening in September, I will keep you informed of what this will look like when the Government makes a decision, the Vine have decided that **all schools in the MAT will close on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**. We will close at school at 3.15pm. The three days in the following week will be INSET days.

### **Next Academic Year**

#### **Medicines**

I have recently sent out a letter regarding children's care plans. Care plans should be completed annually by parents to ensure the information school holds for children is current and accurate.

I would be grateful if you can complete the care plan attached to the Medicines in School letter and return to the school office by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, either as a completed paper copy or email to Miss Bridges [welfare@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:welfare@williammartin-inf.essex.sch.uk).

Complete a care plan if your child has:

- A pre-existing medical condition
- Needs to take life-saving medication
- An allergy
- Specific dietary requirements
- Personal care requirements

#### **School Uniform**

We will be continuing to push on making our children feel proud to attend William Martin Schools, this includes ensuring all our children look smart and wear the correct school uniform - please ensure all uniform is named.

#### **A reminder that:**

Trousers, Skirts & Pinafore Dresses

Polo shirts, Roll neck tops, cotton shirts & blouses

School Sweatshirt/Cardigan

Jumpers and Cardigans

Fleece

Waterproof Fleece

Summer Dresses

Pique Dresses (T Shirt Dresses)

Summer Shorts

Baseball & Knitted Hats

Socks

Tights



Charcoal Grey/Black

White or Blue

Royal Blue

Royal Blue

Royal Blue

Royal Blue

Royal Blue / White Check/ Stripes

Royal Blue

Charcoal Grey/Black

Royal Blue

Black/white/grey

Black/blue/grey



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### **PE Kit**

Blue or white Polo Shirt/T shirt & Black Shorts/Blue

PE Kits should be kept in a named drawstring bag, together with a pair of black, slip-on plimsolls for Infants and trainers for Juniors.

### **Shoes**

In particular, children will be expected to wear black shoes, trainer shoes will be acceptable, as long as they do not display a visible logo. Shoes should preferably be leather, and can be worn comfortably when walking or running.

### **Hair Bows**

These look very smart with neat hairstyles, please ensure they are school colours - black, white, royal blue or grey and no larger than a clenched fist.

### **Snacks**

Children in the Infants are provided with fruit for a snack by the school. They do not need to bring in any other snack for break time.

From September, **Junior children will only be allowed to bring in fruit, dried fruit and water for snack.** This is so the school is in line with Healthy Schools advice.

### **Children Arriving Late**

**Both schools begin at 8.50am,** the gates are opened at 8.45am. The gates will be shut at 8.55am.

In the past we have had considerable numbers of children arriving late for school, particularly in the Infants. It is vitally important that children are arriving at their classrooms, at the latest by 8.55am so they can be registered, are ready to learn and don't disrupt the learning of other children.

Mrs Kearney and myself will be welcoming children into school at the infant gates and for those children who are late, in the school foyer, to ensure they arrive promptly in September. Parents will be asked to meet with Mrs Kearney and myself, if children have repeated late arrivals after 8.55am.

Children arriving promptly for the start of the school, ensures that they have a settled, enjoyable day where they are happy to learn. I would be very grateful for your support in this matter.

### **And Finally....**

I just wanted to say a massive thank you to all the parents for patiently, bearing with us as we navigate our way through very difficult and challenging times, with the ever shifting and changing advice being given to education staff and Leaders. It hasn't been easy but we have all really appreciated all your messages of support, the beautiful pictures of your children home learning and seeing all the amazing work they are producing!



It makes me very happy when I see children walking to school in their school uniforms, and I hope and pray that we can all return to a (relatively) normal and exciting new school year for the children, when we can all look forward to exciting learning, seeing friends and being all together again!

Apologies once again for the long letter, but there was lots I needed to tell you about!

Very best wishes and stay safe,

Gina Bailey

Executive Headteacher



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