

Building each other up



with God as our firm foundation

## St. Paul's Church of England (A) Primary School

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Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have been able to enjoy time over the summer with friends and family. I am delighted to be writing to you to introduce myself as your new Headteacher. I feel very honoured to be given the privilege of leading the school and am excited to get to know both the children and you as parents, over the coming days and weeks.

I am looking forward to finding out all the things that make St Paul's such a special place to learn as well as us working in partnership as a staff with parents and the wider community, to continue the school's vision of ensuring all children learn, grow and succeed through our Rainbow Christian Values. Just as our school mission statement says; ***building each other up – with God as our firm foundation***, we will build St Paul's upon the strong foundations laid during Mrs Daniel's time, guided by the love of Jesus.

Originally from Cornwall, I have lived in and around the Wolverhampton area since qualifying as a teacher in 2004 and starting my career in a small rural church school in Staffordshire. I worked for a period of time at St Nicholas CE First School in Codsall before moving to Birches First School where I worked for 6 ½ years. During my time at Birches I was privileged to take on the role of Acting Headteacher for two, year long periods as well as serving as Assistant Head. Having loved my time at Birches, I found myself seeking the 'next step' and find myself here at St Paul's - ready to start the most exciting adventure with your children!

As we all know, the last academic year was hugely impacted by the Covid pandemic and as a school, many safety measures and arrangements were required to minimise risk. In July, the Government moved to 'Stage 4' of the roadmap to recovery and life has started to return to some forms of normality in many ways. Guidance for schools was published, removing the requirement to keep children in consistent bubbles and changing the self-isolation rules.

Due to this, staggered starts and separate entrances/collection points are no longer required. (Arrangements can be found further on in this letter.)



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Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad



Whilst restrictions have been lifted, we are still required to have a risk assessment and a 'baseline' of protective measures in place to minimise the risk of transmission whilst maximising attendance and minimising disruption to children's education. These measures include;

-Continued high levels of hygiene – children will be encouraged to wash and/or sanitise hands at regular intervals. 'Catch it, kill it, bin it' practices.

(We would recommend that children continue to wash their hands thoroughly just before leaving the house in the morning and when they arrive home after school. Please discuss good hygiene with your child(ren).)

-Increased cleaning regimes (more frequent and 'deeper cleaning').

-Keeping spaces well ventilated.

-Following Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and management of confirmed cases of Covid-19.

### **Guidance Summary:**

1. No more bubbles from September - Whole school worship can resume.
2. Staggered timings – start, finish and lunch times will no longer need to be staggered.
3. Contact tracing for schools - close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.
4. Self-isolation as a result of close contact - From 16th August, children under the age of 18 and those who have been double vaccinated are no longer required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as being identified as a close contact. Instead, they will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test.
5. Face coverings - no longer be required for staff and visitors in either classrooms or communal areas.
6. Staff are still strongly encouraged to carry out twice-weekly lateral flow testing.
7. Children experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 - Pupils, staff or other adults must follow Public Health advice when experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19. Please visit for '[When to Self-Isolate Guidance](#)'. Children or parents must not come onto the school premises if they are experiencing any symptoms and are required to begin self-isolating as soon as the symptoms begin. If pupils arrive at school with Covid-19 symptoms, school has the right to refuse entry for the pupil to protect other pupils and staff members.
8. Remote Education - This will still be provided to any children who are self-isolating and are well enough to work.
9. Risk Assessments – These continue to be live documents and will be updated with any further guidance release.
10. Positive cases - Self-isolation rules will continue for those who test positive for Covid-19.



In the event of a local outbreak or one within school, we will work closely health protection teams and Public Health England, who may advise temporarily re-introducing previous control measures to help minimise the spread of the virus. Any changes such as these will be communicated with you via email and the school website as soon as possible.

As we know from recent news reports, cases are once again rising and we are reminded that we are still in a very fragile position and must continue to do all we can to help fight this virus. Please be aware that the situation could still change and, at times these changes come at short notice. We will keep you informed of any updates from the DFE or Public Health and any impact this may have on our school, as soon as we are able to do so.

Further information for parents can be found here; [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

As a staff, we are looking forward to the return to more 'normal' school routines and organisation – none more so than whole school Collective Worship and singing together! Over the coming weeks and months, we also hope to reintroduce a range of clubs for children and opportunities for parents to come into school to enjoy an active role in the life of the school. We will share more details as they become available.

### **Arrangements for drop off and collection are as follows;**

#### **Start of the day;**

All children and parents will enter the school site via the pedestrian gate off Emsworth Crescent, behind Morrison's.

The gate will be opened at **8.40am**. At this time, parents will walk their child along the path to their classroom. Staff will be in classrooms ready to welcome the children each day from **8.45am**. Parents should then return along the path, exiting through the gate back onto Emsworth Crescent. We ask that parents are mindful of other parents and children who may be walking in the opposite direction along the pathways and keep to the left.

The gate will be closed again at **8.55am** which is when lessons will begin. Please ensure your child is in class by this time to ensure they are settled and ready to start their day. Children arriving after this time will have to go to the front office to be signed in by office staff.

#### **End of the day;**

Again, parents will enter the school site via the pedestrian gate off Emsworth Crescent.

The gate will be opened at **3.05pm**.

Parents should walk along the path to their child's classroom where they should wait until the class teacher opens the door and begins dismissing the children. Please could parents stand back from the windows and doors while waiting, to ensure that staff can see clearly when dismissing and so that children do not become distracted when getting ready to go home.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children should be collected at **3.10pm**.

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 should be collected at **3.15pm**.

Parents and children should then return along the path, exiting through the gate back onto Emsworth Crescent. Again, please be mindful of other parents and children who may be walking in the opposite direction along the pathways and keep to the left.



## Nursery

Nursery children should be collected from the front entrance to school at **11.45am**.

The school grounds are a **non-smoking** area and we ask that parents **refrain from using their mobile phones** whilst on the school site for safeguarding purposes. For Health and Safety reasons, **dogs are not permitted on school grounds**.

All children in Years 1-6 should return to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. Children joining us in Reception and Nursery this year return according to the information shared in your induction packs – we look forward to welcoming all the new children and families into the St Paul's community.

Have a super weekend – we are so excited to welcome all the children back to their new classes on Monday!

Best wishes,

Mrs J Ferretti  
Headteacher

