



ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EXPECT, ENDEAVOUR, EXCEED

FRIENDSHIP

TRUST

JUSTICE

ENDURANCE

COMPASSION

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below a comprehensive list (I hope) of everything practical you need to know about returning to school from Monday. Please be patient with us whilst we get used to things, but if there is anything that is obviously not working, please feedback to us, and we will work together to find a solution. We obviously have no idea how things will work in practice until we've given them a try.

If your child is in EYFS, then not everything in this list will be relevant, but Mrs Beasley and Mrs Garrod will talk through any differences with you during your meetings next week.

Safety and Trust

- If you have recently returned (within the last 15 days) from holidaying in a country on the government's watchlist, please ensure you keep your child off school until your period of quarantine is over. Because this is a situation beyond your control, you will not be fined as it will not be classed as a "holiday". Please be honest with us though – your children are amazing, but not very good at keeping things secret 😊, and we want to maintain an honest and open relationship with you.
- Please do not send your child into school if they, or any member of your household, have shown any symptoms of Covid-19 <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>. Please inform school at the earliest opportunity, get tested immediately and follow current government advice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- Please do NOT give your child Calpol or equivalent in the morning if they are feeling unwell, even if you suspect it is just a heavy cold or toothache etc. This is because it could mask symptoms of Covid-19 and therefore put other members of the community at risk. Please get your child tested, just to be safe, even if having them at home is difficult with work/family commitments. It's much better to have one day off for a "false alarm" waiting for a test result, than to have a class (or more) off for two weeks, even if it seems like an inconvenience at the time.
- Please let us know immediately if you have been contacted by Test and Trace for any reason.

Preparation for School

- Please start to prepare your child for the return to school by adjusting bedtimes if necessary and limiting the amount of time they have on screens if this is something you have relaxed a little over lockdown/holidays (I know I have). I am more than happy to be "bad cop" so feel free to blame me for any changes to the holiday routine. 😊 To have a good night's sleep, children should ideally have between 1-2 hours away from a screen before they go to bed, and older children should not have access to any of their gadgets through the night.
- Please give them the letter "Welcome back children" from me to read, or read it through with them. If they have any questions or worries, they can email me or their teacher and we'll do our best to answer them.
- If your child has been diagnosed with a medical condition over the holidays (ie one we do not know about) please let us know in writing. This is especially important if the symptoms are similar to any of the Covid-19 symptoms (eg running around the field with asthma could cause a coughing fit).
- Please email school with any changes to contact details, and ensure that phone numbers and emergency contacts are up to date and available throughout the school day.

School Environment

- School has been completely deep-cleaned and the carpets, rugs and upholstery have all been cleaned too.
- All toys, resources etc have been disinfected, and everything that was beyond a good clean/repair has been thrown away.

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- Each class will have its own supply of wipes, hand gel, soap and disinfectant and children will be expected to take it in turns to ensure their classroom environment stays clean and safe. This way, we will be teaching children to manage risk themselves. If there is a medical reason (allergy or sensitivity to products) that means your child is unable to take part in helping to clean, please let their class teacher know.
- Spot cleans (by an adult) will happen throughout the day, and toilets will be cleaned in the middle of the day, in addition to the usual after-school clean.
- Doors and windows will be open to encourage ventilation and lots of learning will take place outside. Please make sure your child is weather-proofed!!!

What to wear

- Full school uniform except on your PE day when you should come to school in your PE kit (appropriate for the weather and time of year). You will remain in your PE kit all day, so no need for uniform.
 - Mondays – EYFS “St John class” (starting on the 21st)
 - Tuesdays – Y4_5 “St Etheldreda class” (starting on the 8th)
 - Wednesdays – Y2 “St Peter class” (starting on the 9th)
 - Thursdays – Y6 “Edith Cavell class” (starting on the 10th)
 - Fridays – Y1 “St Francis class” (starting on the 11th)
 - Fridays – Y3_4 “St Christopher class” (starting on the 11th)
- Please ensure that, where possible, hair is off the face (less to fiddle with) and tied back, and that any hair accessories are discreet so they are not a temptation to others!

What to bring

- A named water bottle. Your child will need to take this home every night to be washed, and bring it back every morning.
- A named carrier bag, containing a named pair of old shoes/trainers or wellies that your child can wear on the field. This should be kept in school throughout the week. NO RUCKSACKS PLEASE – they take up too much space and fall on the floor.
- A bag (named) **that will fit in your child’s tray**, and which we can use to send home letters (if necessary), books, certificates etc. This should either be a book-bag, zip wallet, or a bag that will fold flat and fit inside a tray (eg a carrier bag/bag for life). In this bag, they can bring in:
 - a fruit or vegetable snack for break (KS2 only, KS1 will continue to receive free fruit and vegetable snacks)
 - their named water-bottle
 - their own named hand gel (if they need a particular brand due to sensitivity/eczema etc)
 - **if attending Splats after-school**, a non-perishable snack
- A waterproof (for warmer days, and even when it looks nice in the morning) or a warm and waterproof coat for colder days. Teachers will be dressed for the weather so that we can be outside, we would like the children to be weather-proofed too!
- A named packed lunch, if your child is not having a school dinner.
- If your child needs to bring in a rucksack because, for example, they are spending the night with a different parent, please email their teacher to let them know then we can find a space to store it.

Arrival

- The school gates will be open from 8:30am and will close at 8:50 am.
- Only blue badge holders are allowed to drive up School Lane between 8:20am-4:00pm
- Where possible, we would encourage you to use the “Drop and Roll” system if you are driving your child to school, or walking from the Overend side of the village. This is to minimise the number of adults coming into contact with each other and will therefore help to keep everyone safe, and the village residents happy!
- There will be 4 members of staff on Drop and Roll duty this term – 2 will walk children to school in “batches” whilst the other 2 remain at the entrance to the churchyard on Overend. Drop and Roll will be from 8:30-8:45am.
- We respectfully ask that any parent wishing to walk their child to the school premises does so via School Lane (up the hill). This will prevent adults crossing paths and again keep everyone in the school and wider village community safe.
- As last term, I will be outside the school hall for at least the first week to welcome children to school. This is where they will need to say goodbye to their adult (if not using Drop and Roll, or coming to school independently). No adult will be allowed up the side path or on the school premises without a prior, confirmed appointment.

School Dinners

- Hot school dinners will be available every day (menu attached). If your child is in EYFS and KS1, or if you are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding, meals are funded by the government.
- Parents of children in Year 3 will need to log onto SIMS Pay to pay for school meals if they wish their child to have them, as they are no longer free. We often have teething trouble with SIMS Pay at the start of the year, so please contact Kerry, kdarby@elton.cambs.sch.uk if you have any issues.

School Bus

- If you live in a catchment village outside Elton, then you are eligible for the school bus
- The pick-up times (morning) will be the ones you have received from the Local Authority.
- The driver and chaperone will be wearing PPE.
- Children do not need to wear a face covering, however as Shirley (chaperone) is medically vulnerable, she would be very appreciative if children could wear a mask.
- Siblings will sit together on the bus and it will be filled from back to front.
- In the mornings, children will be met by the teachers on Drop and Roll duty and walked into school.
- On the way home, the bus times have changed. **The bus will leave school at 3:30pm. Children may therefore arrive back at their stop a little later than usual.**

The End of the Day

- To minimise the number of adults around the school premises, we have staggered the finish times to the day for this first half term.
- Finish times are as follows:
 - EYFS + older siblings (from 14th September) 3pm
 - KS1 + older siblings 3:10pm
 - Splats 3:15pm
 - KS2 3:20pm
 - Bus 3:30pm
- Please ensure you are at school for your child's designated finish time (unless they are at Splats or on the bus)
- Please wait at a distance from other adults
- Your child will come to you once the teacher has dismissed them, please do not encourage them to leave without the teacher's permission.
- Once you have your child, please leave immediately so that there is room to wait/park for the next group of parents.
- Please (until further notice) do not go on the field with your child at the end of the day
- If your child is in KS2 and you would like them to walk home independently, please let us know in writing.

Home-School Communication

Unfortunately, like everyone, we are having to change our way of working as a result of Covid-19, and cannot be as "open" as we usually are, though hopefully you will find us just as friendly! You will be unable to come into school unless you have a prior and confirmed appointment but staff will do their best to prompt your child into remembering the things they need, and help them to adapt to their new routines. They will try to catch you occasionally in person or by email with any good news, and will post activities on Twitter so that you can see what your child has been up to.

Please do give us time over the next couple of weeks to get things up and running, and once everyone is feeling more settled and happier with the routines, then we can make further plans to enhance our working relationship with you.

In the meantime, if there's anything I've missed, or if you have any questions, please do get in touch. I will write a proper "start of term" letter in a week or so, and introduce you to all the staff and their roles within the school.

With best wishes, and looking forward to seeing lots of you next week,

Claire Arnold
Headteacher

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