

Essex County Council

Dedham Church of England Primary School

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31st August 2021

Dear families of Dedham Church of England Primary School,

I hope that you have enjoyed the summer break. With there being just a few days now until the children return to school, I am writing to let you know the arrangements for the new term.

Everyone at school is really looking forward to welcoming children in Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 back to school on Thursday 2nd September. The new Reception children will be following the induction timetable set out by Mrs Proctor. If Reception parents have any questions about this, please contact Mrs Proctor via Tapestry.

I hope that you find the following information helpful.

Uniform

In September, children will need to return to school wearing school uniform as per our School Uniform List:

<https://www.dedham.essex.sch.uk/the-info-hub/school-uniform-from-4th-january-2021>

Sun hats should be provided and sun cream applied as required before school. Reapplication of sun cream can only be done by the child themselves. Children may come into school with named sun cream, to be kept in their bag.

Start and finish times

Staggered start and finish times will no longer be necessary and therefore we will be returning to our pre-COVID school timings. The outer school gate will open at 8:35am and the inner gate and classroom doors will open at 8:45am. The children in KS2 need to be in their classroom by 8:50am when the registers will be taken. The children in KS1 need to be in their classroom by 9:00am when the registers will be taken. Any child arriving after this time, will need to enter via the school office and be signed in by an accompanying parent and they will be marked as late in the register.

School will finish at 3:10pm and the children will need to be collected promptly from the main playground (accessed through the car park) unless they are attending an after school club. Please make sure that you always let us know if you are held up and are going to be late. In addition, please let the class teacher or the office know if someone else will be picking up your child at the end of the day.

Drop-off/ Pick-up and face coverings onsite

More than one adult will once again be permitted onto the site to drop-off/ pick-up children. There are some parents who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable so we would ask parents to continue to be mindful of social distancing and, due to the number of people coming onsite at the same time, you may wish to continue to wear a face covering when on the school site. Any parents/carers coming inside the school building will be required to wear a face covering. Face coverings for staff and visitors are no longer needed either in classrooms or in communal areas, however it may be that staff members choose to continue to do this.



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Office

Parents may come into the main entrance area to talk to a member of the office staff. In these instances, only one parent at a time will be allowed into this area and they will need to wear a face covering when doing so. The member of office staff may choose to wear a visor, face covering or both when communicating with the parent. Signs will indicate the maximum number of people allowed in the main entrance area and the need for a face covering to be worn.

Postboxes are available outside the office area at the entrance to the school car park. These are checked regularly during the day.

School Office opening hours from 1st September 2021 are as follows.

Monday to Thursday: 8:00am – 4:00pm

Friday: 8:00am – 3:30pm

Class Bubbles

Following the introduction of Step 4 of the COVID Roadmap, the Department for Education (DfE) have recommended that class bubbles should no longer be maintained; full school assemblies will resume in the hall and breaks and lunches will no longer need to be staggered.

The school will have in place an 'Covid Outbreak Management Plan' to cover the possibility that it may become necessary to re-introduce class bubbles for a temporary period, under advice from Public Health England.

Ongoing COVID control measures

We will be maintaining the following control measures:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone, including regular handwashing
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keeping occupied spaces well-ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

If a child or member of staff develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Children and staff should not come into school if they have COVID symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home (for example they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, the school is required to send them home and parents/carers should obtain a PCR test as soon as possible. It is vitally important that this is done promptly by all relevant parents/carers in order to keep our whole school community as safe as possible. Also, it needs to be a PCR test that is done as Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) are designed for asymptomatic testing.

In the case of a positive result, the whole class will no longer be sent home to self-isolate. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced if they are specifically identified by the positive case as a close contact.

Since 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years 6 months have not been required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. Instead they will be advised by Test and Trace to take a PCR test. We would strongly encourage parents/ carers to arrange a PCR test for their child under these circumstances.

What do we need you to provide from home?

The school will provide all the resources that your child will need in class. All children will need their book bags (with their reading book and reading record book every day), a lunch box (if your child is bringing their own lunch), a healthy snack (fresh fruit or vegetables only), a clean named water bottle each day, sun cream and a sun hat (if the weather requires it). These items will need to be brought into school in a named bag.

Even if it is raining, we will endeavour to take the children outside at break times so please ensure that your child has a coat with them in school each day.

P.E.

On the days that your child's class has P.E., they will need to come in to school in their P.E. uniform as the children will not change for P.E. They will remain in these clothes all day so do not need to bring in uniform to change into afterwards. No classes will be having P.E. on Thursday or Friday this week but we will send a P.E. timetable out shortly so you know which days your child will have P.E. from Monday onwards.

ASM will be working with us all day on Tuesdays and Friday afternoons and we are in communication with other providers about working with us again.

Lunches

The school kitchen will be open from Thursday 2nd September and we will be offering a hot dinner option each day, with a vegetarian option, as per the school dinner menus on our school website: <https://www.dedham.essex.sch.uk/the-info-hub/dinner-menu>

Children in Classes R, 1 and 2 will continue to be entitled to a free school meal and those other children who are entitled to a free school meal will continue to receive them. If you believe your circumstances have changed and you could be eligible for free school meals, then you can find the criteria and application process by following the link below: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>.

For children who pay for school dinners in Classes 3, 4, 5 & 6, payment can be sent with your child or made via the school office. Please make cheques payable to DEDHAM COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL. A new electronic system for payment of school meals will be available shortly.

Alternatively, children can bring in their own lunch box. There are children with nut allergies in school, therefore do not allow your child any snack or lunch items which do (or may) contain nuts.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

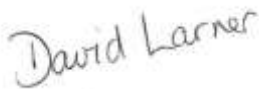
Breakfast Club will begin on Thursday 2nd September and runs from 8:00am to 8:45am. Our new after school provision will launch during the autumn term. We are also in contact with different providers regarding after school clubs and again further information about these clubs will be sent out when we return to school.

Wellbeing

The staff are aware that some children may be feeling anxious about returning to school. We will do our absolute best to help your children settle into school routines as gently as possible, with social and emotional activities to boost their confidence and happiness.

All of us at Dedham cannot wait to see you all on Thursday 2nd September.

My very best wishes to you all,



Mr David Larner
Headteacher