



Churchstanton, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7RL  
Head Teacher – Mrs Claire Halstead  
Tel: 01823 601354 Email: [sch.105@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sch.105@educ.somerset.gov.uk)  
[www.churchstanton.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.churchstanton.somerset.sch.uk)

### Information regarding the wider opening of schools

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

At last I am able to provide you with the details of our plans to open the school to more pupils from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. I apologise for the length of this letter, but I feel it is vital that you have all the information necessary and I want to be open and honest about the decisions we have made.

I am sorry that I have not been able to get these details to you sooner. We have been waiting for guidance from the DFE, which has been drip-fed to us over the past week or so in a rather chaotic and contradictory fashion. However, the staff and the Governing Body are now sure that what we have in place meets the guidelines and keeps pupils, parents and staff as safe as possible.

The Government will not confirm whether the wider opening of schools will go ahead until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. This will be based on whether England has met the 5 key markers. Should the Government change its mind, we will still open to keyworker and vulnerable pupils on 1st June and will revert to our original plan that has been in place since March 20th.

Our guiding principles for wider opening are:

1. Health & Safety of staff and pupils
2. Emotional health and well-being
3. Re-building of social networks
4. Support through any bereavement that families may have experienced
5. Beginning to assess learning and start the learning process again
6. Continuing to provide home learning for those not yet at school

We have made the decision to offer part-time schooling for R, Y1 & Y6 pupils starting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. This ensures that we have capacity for **all** pupils to return later in June when it is safe to do so. If we followed the Government guidelines to provide full time education for R, Y1 & Y6 **only**, we would **not** have been able to provide **any** schooling for the rest of the school due to lack of staffing and insufficient space. I am sure you will agree that to not see any of our Y2, 3, 4 and 5 pupils until September would be unacceptable.



## Organisation of groups

Pupils have been placed into groups called “bubbles” that will stay together all day and will not mix with other “bubbles”. They will have designated staff that will stay with them in the classroom. These “bubbles” will learn, play and eat together all day. This will ensure that we limit the social contact in school which will help to keep your children safe. More details on these groups will be with you at the end of the week.

## Preparing the school site

During half term, when the school is fully closed, AIS Cleaning contractors will be in to thoroughly clean the school. Staff will also be working to prepare the school site to ensure everyone’s safety. Once this is done, each class teacher will send a short video for each bubble to show the physical set up in each classroom and explain things clearly before the children come into school. If there are aspects of this which need further clarification, please do contact your Class Teacher via the Class email.

If having read the following information you have changed your mind about whether or not your child will be attending, please just contact us. We completely support the right of parents to choose what feels appropriate for them and their family circumstances. There will be no penalties for absence during COVID19.

## Basic Principles:

- Pupils will be offered 2 days in school each week followed up by online learning. These will either be Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. The school will be closed on a Wednesday to provide Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) for teachers (which will include providing online support for those pupils who are not yet back in school) and to allow the school to be thoroughly cleaned before the second group arrives.
- Confirmation on which days will be offered to families will be given by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Where possible, we have kept family and friendship groups together and pupils will be in bubbles of no more than 10 pupils. This is well below the Government suggestion of 15 pupils.
- Each bubble will have the same two adults for support during the day.
- Each bubble will have access to the forest and playground on a rota basis. They will be able to use this for learning, playing and eating a picnic lunch if the weather is fine.
- Each Bubble will have its own classroom as a base or Zone. Pupils will have their own equipment for use in the classroom and at playtimes. This equipment will not be shared between bubbles. Equipment from home must **not** be brought into school.
- Lunch – there will be **no hot lunches** for the time being. All pupils will need a packed lunch. Pupils eligible for FSM will be contacted soon about provision for them. Lunch will be eaten outside wherever possible, or in the classroom base and all tables will be cleaned after eating. Each table will be separately



cleaned using antibacterial and disinfectant spray and disposable paper towel to ensure there is no cross-contamination.

- Each bubble will have an allotted time and access point to enter the school. This must be strictly adhered to. More details to follow.
- Parents and Carers will not have access to the school site or buildings but must drop children off at the designated point.
- If your child uses School Transport, we will be in touch to confirm details with you as soon as we can.
- School uniform must be worn.

### Handwashing and use of toilets

- Children will all wash their hands on entering their classroom. They will wash their hands at regular intervals during the day, particularly when coming in from outside and before and after eating their food and using the toilets.
- Specific toilets will be designated for each Zone to use.

### Safety on site

In addition to the measures set out above, the following will apply:

- Parents and visitors will not be allowed on site.
- All communication with the school office will be done via email or phone message.
- Parents are asked not to linger before or after school but to leave the site promptly.

### Children or staff displaying symptoms:

The guidance around this is really clear and we will follow it carefully. Please **do not** send your child to school if you suspect that you or a member of your household is displaying symptoms.

If a child (or adult) appears to be unwell with either a high temperature or a new, continuous cough, or the loss of taste or smell, the following process will be followed:

- The child will be isolated with an adult and the parents will be contacted to collect their child immediately.
- Children will be eligible for testing from 1st June and parents will need to book this test.
- If the test is negative, the child can return to school.
- If the test is positive the child, all children in the bubble and the member of staff working with them must self-isolate for 14 days.



- Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate unless the child develops symptoms.

We will be in touch at the end of this week to confirm your child's days, the group they will be in, their classroom base/zone and the adults that will be working with them.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. This has been a very challenging process for us all but I do hope that you can see that we have a clear plan in place that will benefit all pupils at Churchstanton and allow us to keep them and our staff safe.

Continue to stay safe and keep well.

Kind Regards,  
Mrs C Halstead



Headteacher

