

Principal
Miss. D. Givens
B.A.(Hons) Q.T.S



Burtens Way
Smith's Wood
Birmingham
B36 0SZ

Tel: 0121 779 8050

Dear Parents and Carers,

3rd September 2021

Welcome back!

We hope that you all had a lovely summer holidays and we are looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday 6th September 2021.

When I wrote to you in July, the guidance for September was for pupils to no longer need to be kept in bubbles and I am pleased to say that this guidance is still currently in place. This means that Smith's Wood Primary Academy can begin to return to normality and the procedures we had in place, before the pandemic, can return. As we have seen with the Covid situation over the last 18 months, situations can change rapidly, therefore I would ask all parents to be mindful of this and if we need to reintroduce any of the restrictions we had before the holidays, in response to the situation, then I will notify you of this at the earliest convenience.

The need for staggered start and finish times are no longer required and school will return to a start time of **8.45am** for all pupils and a finish time of **3.10pm** for all pupils. Parents will be able to drop their child off at 8.45am and pick them up at 3.10pm. As I said in July, the one thing that we have seen, during this pandemic, is the independence levels of our pupils develop greatly over the year. I would therefore ask that parents continue to encourage their child to display these independence levels as much as they can and if your child is happy to leave you at the gate, or on the playground, and walk to class on their own, that you continue to encourage this.

Staff will be welcoming the children in their class, from the classroom doors in September, however we would ask that parents allow teachers to be able to do this promptly and limit any questions which they may have. The lines of communication, which have been used throughout the year, in terms of year group emails and phone calls, will remain in place for all parents to continue to access. Please only approach your child's class teacher at the start of the day if there is an urgent message you need to give.

When we return in September, as there is no need for named close contacts to have to isolate, this will remove the closure of whole class bubbles and will mean that our pupils are able to access in school education, each and every day. If your child tests positive for Covid themselves, then they will be required to self-isolate; please see the attached flowchart for the actions to take in different scenarios.

We are keen to ensure that any learning, which pupils have missed over the last 15 months, is caught up. Staff worked hard in the summer term to identify any gaps in pupils' learning and the curriculum has been adapted accordingly. Interventions will start on the first day back and we are committed to ensuring that your child receives the top quality education that they are entitled to. Breakfast club will also be open, for pupils, from 8.30am in the small and large hall. Breakfast club will start on Monday 6th September.

Attendance at school remains mandatory. As you are aware, this has been the case for the Summer term and will be a priority for the school as we move forward into this academic year. Please ensure that you send your child to school each day and follow the procedures and policies in place. Please be aware that your child will only receive an authorised X code if they test positive for Covid themselves. As there is no expectation for close contacts to isolate, then children can attend school as normal. **Registers will close at 8.55am, as will the gates to access the school site.** This is a change from the staggered entry times, where they were open until 9.00am. Any children accessing school after 8.55am, will receive a late mark and will need to sign in at the main entrance.

As always, pupils will be expected to wear full school uniform, including black shoes. PE kit, for all pupils is black shorts or jogging bottoms and a plain red top. We are looking forward to seeing all our pupils, arriving in full uniform on Monday 6th September at 8.45am.

The school office will be open, from 8.00am on Monday 6th September if you have any questions before pupils return to school. Alternatively, the year group email addresses are still in operation and we would encourage parents to email any questions to year groups using the addresses set up during the pandemic.

We look forward to seeing all our pupils on Monday 6th September.

Miss D Givens (Principal)

CHALLENGE, SUPPORT, PROGRESS

Email: office@smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk www.smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk
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VAT number 189285257

Registered office is situated at Burtens Way, Smith's Wood, Birmingham, B36 0SZ

