

Spire Junior School

Jawbones Hill, Derby Road, Chesterfield S40 2EN
Telephone: (01246) 234546 Fax: (01246) 275053



Headteacher: Mr D.Shaw

E-mail headteacher@spire-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk
Website www.spirejunior.co.uk

24th August 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you've all had a lovely summer (under the challenging circumstances) and that this letter finds you healthy and well.

I wanted to write to you and update you regarding the measures we are putting in place to keep your child safe and well, as well as providing them with a quality education.

Social Distancing & Hygiene Guidance

All classrooms have been further deep cleaned over the summer period. Children will be in their new classes for the new school year. The focus will be on maintaining distance between class 'bubbles' rather than seating children 2 metres apart in classrooms (which is no longer advised and no longer an option if all children are returning to school). Children will sit side by side but all desks will face the front of the class.

There will be a number of hand sanitiser stations around school for use as and when required, in addition to soap and water in classrooms. Children will be asked to wash their hands:

- On entry to the classroom.
- After sneezing or coughing.
- Before and after eating food.
- Before and after leaving the classroom for a toilet visit.
- Before leaving school at the end of the day.

The school will be promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' health hygiene scheme. Children will be given their own pencil case with all the stationery they require inside it. We will continue to keep classroom doors and windows (weather permitting) open during the day to ensure as much natural ventilation as possible.

Staff will not be wearing masks and children are not permitted to wear them in school either. We have purchased additional PPE (eg face visors) which will be used when children require first aid.



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Arrangements to Reduce Mixing between Groups

All children will be in their class groups. We have amended the school day by reducing the lunch hour to 45 minutes (from 60 minutes) a day, and shortening the end of the school day by 5 minutes from 3.25 p.m. to 3.20 p.m., this will provide us with an extra 50 minutes teaching time a week as we begin 'catch up' learning from the Summer 2020 term.

We will be staggering start and finish times for the children with Year 3 and Year 4 children beginning school at 8.55 a.m. and finishing at 3.20 p.m., meanwhile Year 5 and Year 6 children will begin school at 8.40 a.m. and will finish at 3.05 p.m. Please see attached a timetable for you to see how the school day will work.

Unfortunately, we cannot currently plan our usual daily assemblies and instead we will be using some of this time to complete some healthy exercise inside and outside of our classrooms. We will of course have our weekly 'Gold Award' assemblies online with each class joining so we can celebrate each classes achievements.

We will be looking at beginning some after school clubs next term, but these will be for 1 or 2 year groups maximum and children in different bubbles will be kept socially distant. Due to the need to keep class bubbles separate, in the first instance we will not be able to run a breakfast club in September. Instead, all children will be served bagels in their classrooms as part of their morning registration.

In order to minimise contact around school, the one-way system we had in place prior to the summer break will continue.

Drop Off and Collection

Access to the school site will continue from both the Derby Road entrance and St Augustine's Avenue. However, once on site a one-way system for drop and collection will be in place. Parents will access the school playground via the 'top' gate via the end of the school building and parents should then drop children off via the appropriate yard (please see the Timetable Plan). Parents should then follow the one-way system and leave via the gate at the end of the 'bottom' playground onto the school car park. Once onto the front of school, parents can leave via the gate onto Derby Road or walk past the front of school and exit onto St Augustine's Avenue. We ask that parents practice social distancing when waiting for their children to be dropped off / collected.



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Please arrive as close as possible to your child's starting time / finishing time to prevent class bubbles mixing. Unfortunately, parents will **not** be permitted into the school building and if you need to discuss issues with staff please telephone the school and we will endeavour to investigate any concerns or happily pass messages onto staff for you.

Curriculum, Behaviour and Attendance

We will be focusing on a recovery curriculum in September and ensuring our children's social, emotional and health needs are met before anything else. We will then spend time focusing on the key Mathematical and English skills that are so important to our children as the foundations for their future learning.

We have published our updated Behaviour Policy on our school website. We will continue to support our children in managing their behaviour, but due to social distancing rules, if poor behaviour persists, parents will be contacted.

Attendance from September for all children will be **compulsory**. Failure to comply may result in a penalty notice being issued.

Children's Belongings

If your child has not been in school since lockdown began, any belongings in school such as coats, PE kit and items in their drawers will be sent up to their next teacher's classroom e.g. Year 5 Miss Higginbottom will send belongings up to Year 6 Mrs Vernon. When your child returns in September, part of their transition activities will be sorting through any belongings and taking them home, just as we would ordinarily do in July. You may want your child to try on PE kits and plimsolls etc. before purchasing anything new.

We are asking children not to bring large bags to school as we want to minimise the things brought in from home. All children will need is a small bag for their packed lunch (if required), reading book which will be brought home daily (and changed once a week - younger children will be able to change 3 books at any one time). Children will **not** be able to bring their own stationery, or toys from home.



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Saying Goodbye to your Old Teacher

At the end of the academic year, pupils usually have the opportunity to reflect upon the year gone by and say farewell to their teacher. Although this will not happen in the usual way, we will ensure there is an opportunity for your child to meet with their last teacher, early in the new academic year, so they have a sense of closure from their current year group.

School Dinners and Cashless School

From September we will return to serving hot school lunches, these will be priced at £2.20 per day and must be **paid for in advance** via the school ParentMail system. (More details and logins will be sent during our training days prior to the summer term). We have had many parents asking to purchase school uniform and office staff will be available to deal with queries / purchases on Wednesday 2nd September before school opens on Thursday 3rd September.

Changes to School Uniform

All children will still be required to wear school uniform in September:

- Plain jumpers, cardigans or sweatshirts in navy/royal blue
- Polo shirts / blouses / shirts in white or navy/royal blue
- Trousers, skirts and leggings in black, grey or navy/royal blue
- Suitable sensible dark coloured shoes (for Health and Safety reasons)

In the summer children may wear:

- Black, grey or navy shorts or blue checked dresses
- Polo shirts / blouses / shirts in white or navy/royal blue
- Baseball cap for playtimes

We are trying to reduce the number of items your child brings to school and the frequency with which children are changing their clothing. On the days your child has P.E., please send them dressed in their P.E. kit. There will be an increased amount of outdoor P.E. so their clothing needs to be suitable for the weather e.g. a tracksuit. On P.E. days, your child should arrive at school wearing their kit, including suitable shoes for sport e.g. trainers.



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We appreciate your understanding when adjusting and adapting to these changes. All decisions have been made for the benefit of the whole school community. We all look forward to seeing you on Thursday 3rd September. School office staff will be available in the school office and via telephone on Wednesday 2nd September to answer any questions / queries you may have.

Thank you for all your support during the recent months,

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dave Shaw
Headteacher

