



Headteacher: Mr David Snell

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### Nearly Welcome Back!

We hope you have all had a great summer and enjoyed some of the sunshine we have had, though seems a distant memory with the recent storms! We are busy preparing school to welcome all the pupils back over the next couple of weeks. As a reminder, the arrangements which were sent out in July are as follows for each year group:

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	TED Day - School Closed to Pupils
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	TED Day Identified SEN/Vulnerable Year 5 pupils to have short individual visits to school whilst it is quietest.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School Open to all Year 5 pupils only Targeted SEN/Vulnerable Year 6 pupils to have short individual visits to school to reacquaint themselves whilst it is quieter
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	School Open to all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils New Year 7 pupils in school for a transition day Targeted SEN/Vulnerable Year 8 pupils to have short individual visits to school
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	School open to all pupils (transition activities in the morning)

Our guidance for our return to school protocols, including risk assessment, booklet (that you have already received) and a video presentation have been available on our school website since the end of July. The link to access this is: <http://www.alvechurchmiddle.co.uk/school-re-opening-guidance-for-september-2020/> Some of the key points include:

- After taking transition plans, outlined in the table above, into account, all pupils will be back to school on a full time basis from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September
- There will be a long registration period (from 8.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.) to allow a gradual entry into school
- Pupils will be based in year areas for the entire day. Teachers will move to them rather than the other way around
- Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 will have different break times and different lunchtimes. Within those times, different year groups will be allocated separate areas outside so there is no mixing between them
- Year groups will be dismissed at different intervals from 3.15 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. to keep them apart
- Parents are requested not to be on site and to communicate with school using email and phone via the school office or directly to teachers. Where face to face meetings are

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needed these will be arranged in advance and social distancing guidelines will need to be followed

### **School Transport and Face Coverings**

Those pupils using school transport will be seated in year group areas to avoid mixing with other bubbles. School transport guidance from the County Council recommends that children over the age of 11 wear face coverings when travelling on designated school transport. Ideally they will have their own (as I am sure many of them do) but school will have a small supply if needed. Pupils will not be denied travel if they do not have a face covering.

### **Face Coverings in School**

You will no doubt have seen that the government has changed its mind regarding face coverings. These are only to be mandatory where a school is in a local lockdown area and we are not going to be making them mandatory. Public Health is very clear that face coverings are not needed where other control measures are in place, including regular hand washing, split lunches, year group bubbles etc. Where face coverings are not used and handled correctly they can, in fact, increase the risk of transmission. We are blessed with a school with wide corridors and external access to many classrooms that will be used. If a child does wish to wear a face covering in the corridors, then they will be allowed to do so but they will not be used in classrooms.

### **New Staff**

We have a number of new staff joining us in September. Miss Shipley will be teaching English and other subjects across the school (and a year 6 class teacher) and Miss Whitcombe is joining our year 5 team and teaching predominantly in Key Stage 2. Joining our support staff team are Mr Pattinson (as a cover supervisor and PE/Games support), Mr Tozer and Mrs Aldrigde (both of whom are joining our Learning Support Assistant team).

### **Sickness and Reporting Absence**

In line with government guidance, any pupil showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be isolated in school and parents/carers contacted to pick them up. It is the parents' responsibility to arrange for a COVID test which if positive then the pupil has to isolate for a minimum of 10 days from first symptoms and family members for 14 days. Where there is a positive case confirmed in school we will follow public health guidance but it is not expected that a school will have to close, or a year group bubble shut down, unless there are numerous cases. It may be that pupils will need to be isolating due to other members of the household showing symptoms, or you may be quarantining after return from a country not listed on the government exemption list for foreign travel. Where these circumstances occur we will provide online learning for the pupil using IT systems that were utilised during lockdown.

Our aim continues to be to enable pupils to experience as normal a school experience as possible whilst, most importantly, ensuring any risk is reduced to keep our pupils and staff safe. We have a recovery plan in place to focus on pupils' mental health and well-being and addressing gaps in learning as rapidly as possible. I am aware, with two children of my own, that they may be quite apprehensive about coming back to school, or particularly apprehensive if they are starting with us for the first time. Whilst we know children adapt rapidly when change occurs, please rest assured that we are very focused on providing them with as much support as they need to transition effectively back in to school.

Stay safe and well.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Snell', written in a cursive style.

Mr David Snell  
Headteacher