

Admission to School : September 2021



# SHIRLEY INFANT SCHOOL

## September 2021 Guidance

*Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day*





I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff this year, they have worked so hard once again. They have worked tirelessly to keep the learning and excitement for the children. They have come up with such brilliant activities and ideas for the remote learning and supported the children back into school. The progress of your children has not dropped and this is a credit to the professionalism and knowledge our staff have.

The Office and Site team have worked so hard to keep the school running and ensure the setting is as safe as it can be to keep us open. We will be using all of this knowledge to ensure a smooth transition for September — which we are so very excited about!

The Government announced at the beginning of July that schools will be able to return to a more normal way of working in September. We are planning, under this guidance, to make lots of changes to return to school routines we previously had in school for September:

Everything that we are planning is being taken from this current DFE documentation. We have learnt many things through the pandemic. Some of these changes we really like and will be keeping. Some of the changes we are only going to slightly tweak to keep everyone safe until we know exactly the situation we are in for September.

We are looking forward to making things easier for both yourselves and us but especially for the children.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We know you have lots of questions and we are not able to answer all of them but we will be as open and honest with you as possible. We have written about each change for September through this book but we have highlighted some key questions. A few are highlighted here:

## **What is a recovery curriculum?**

To support continuity and development in the autumn term we will continue the children's learning from their transition topics. Timetables will reflect previous year group expectations. For example, our year one children will continue to learn in smaller groups like they do in early years and daily play- based activities will continue for much of Autumn 1. In the first few weeks, teachers will use the assessments from the previous teachers so that they can tailor the children's' learning needs accurately and ensure appropriate support is available. The timetable will support daily basic skills such as additional reading, recapping of phonic sounds and basic number skills to help the children consolidate the learning. To support the children with their social skills, in the timetable there will be many more opportunities for speaking, listening and sharing of feelings etc as this is a vital part of developing the 'whole- child'. We pride ourselves in promoting an inclusive and creative curriculum and we will ensure this is still of paramount importance. We will strive to ensure the children always have a well- rounded curriculum which supports them on their Shirley School learning journey



## **Will there be a staggered start and end of the school day?**

Inline with the DFE guidance we are not planning to continue with the staggered start and end of day. All children will start and finish at the same time each day. There are a few changes we will need to keep whilst we monitor the R rate in Southampton. [See page 5](#)

## **What provision will there be for lunches and snack?**

Lunchtimes will return to the school hall for hot meals. Sandwiches will continue to be eaten in the classrooms. We will stagger the hall times slightly so that there is only one year group in the hall at any one time.



## **How will you inform me of any changes through the holidays?**

We will send a Marvellous Me update to you if there are updates from the DFE through the summer.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Will I be fined if I do not return my child in September?

It is expected that all children are to return to school on the first day of term in September. This means the school attendance policy is fully in place.



## What will happen if a case is found at school?

The current DFE guidance states that from the 16th August not all children will have to isolate if there is a confirmed case. We will have to work with the Track and Trace system and we will be guided by them. **Please see the separate letter that went out.** If your child has to isolate we will set them back up with the remote learning. All remote learning will continue on Google Classroom. Please ensure you keep your logins. New families to the school will be issued with logins during the first few weeks in September. Your child's learning and virtual lessons will be set on this. The isolating children will be doing the same work as those in class, so no learning will be missed. Children who are poorly will not be expected to take part until they are feeling well enough.

## Will my child bring home reading books and library books?

Yes we will start sending reading books and reading records home again. We will send them home on a Monday and they must be returned on a Friday so we can quarantine them over the weekend.



You will still have access to Rising Stars to practice your child's reading over the weekends. We will upload all the books to this so you can use one login if you have more than one child.

## How will we keep safe?

Hygiene continues to be **very** important. Children will be asked to use the school's hand sanitizer regularly in the classroom as well as washing their hands at points throughout the day. Door handles and taps will be disinfected by an adult in the toilets regularly throughout the day. Each class will continue to have their own toilet blocks in Year 1 and 2. Entrances to the toilets will remain propped open at all times. We will be continuing to remind the children to keep themselves safe by keeping their hands away from their faces, avoiding touching bannisters and walls etc.

Some adults may be wearing face masks, gloves or coverings when working closely with children who require support or medical care.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How will I know what to work on to help my child with their reading?**

We will send home a half termly target card and update you using Marvellous Me.

## **What will happen if my child is ill?**



As per the current guidance, please do not come to school if you have a cough, temperature or loss of taste or smell. We will ask you to follow the current guidance from the Government about PCR tests and isolating.

If your child is sent home due to COVID symptoms we will ask you to take your child for a PCR test. The current guidance is for your child to access a PCR test 5 days into their isolation. We will start remote learning for your child if they are well enough. If you need a paper pack please notify the office when you call in.

## **Will there be breakfast clubs and after school clubs on offer?**

The external club providers are planning to run as normal. As a school we will be reinstating the extra curriculum clubs. Further details will be sent out shortly.



## **Will there be whole school celebrations?**

We are planning to be able to have a Christmas performance this year. However, this will very much depend on Government guidance at that time. At the moment it is indicating we can however, from the announcement on 15th July this could change. We have booked 3 dates in the church so we can limit the numbers for each performance.

We are not currently planning to reinstate whole school assemblies in the Autumn term. We will hold Year group assemblies and virtual whole school assemblies. This is due to a grey area in the guidance around Track and Trace and we feel it is better to wait on this decision.





# Drop off and collection at school each day

The DFE guidance has stated we can now stop the staggered day. Therefore, we are not planning to continue with the staggered start and end of school day. All children will start and finish at the same time each day from September.

**Children can be dropped at school between 8:45am and 9:00am**  
**Children should be collected at 3:10pm**

We will be continuing to use the one-way system in the mornings. To drop your children into school please use the main entrance yellow gate where you will be asked to keep moving across the playground and out of the black gate. As you walk through your child/ren can walk from this line into their classrooms on their own. **Year R will walk in through the yellow gates up the drive, Year 2 will enter via the green double doors, Year 1 will go straight into their classrooms.** We ask that you keep moving and do not congregate on the playground and exit via the black gates promptly. This system of the 'quick' drop off has been working really well and has enabled a smoother and quicker start to the day. The children are much more settled going into school and we have seen such a positive impact on them.

You will **not** be able to speak to your child's class teacher in the mornings. This time is so they can focus on your child and greet them. If you need to give a message to your child's class teacher about pick up please write a note or email in your message/query. Please email:

[office@shirleyschools.co.uk](mailto:office@shirleyschools.co.uk)

Collection will return back to before COVID. You will come onto the playgrounds using the yellow gate and wait for your child/ren to come out of their doors for collection. We would strongly advise you try to socially distance from each other. Please respect the 2 meter distance with the staff if you need to speak to them at the end of the school day. Please then leave via the double black gates.

As per the government current guidance it is being advised you wear a mask in crowded areas or where you could be mixing outside of your normal bubble. We would therefore advise masks for pick ups also.



## What shall I wear to school?

Here is a reminder of the school uniform:



This is a white polo shirt, grey shorts or trousers or grey skirt, skort or dress. We only ask that the children have a school sweatshirt or cardigans with the school logo. These can be purchased from Skoolkit in Totton or from Tesco by ordering online at:

<https://www.tesco.com/direct/shirley-infant-school/8414.school?source=others>.

Children are also allowed to wear green gingham summer dresses, playsuits or skorts.

We have said that children are to return in school shoes from September. However we have reflected on the positives of COVID 19 and remind you that we have changed the policy to include fully black trainers. We will not accept black trainers with patterns or coloured logos. It is a personal choice of each parent if you have school shoes or black trainers.



## PE

We will be returning to PE. Please provide your child with a PE kit which will be left in school. Your child will need a pair of black shorts and basic t-shirt with no accessories. They will need a pair of plimsols or trainers for PE too.

## Lunchtime

Lunchtimes will return to the school hall for hot meals. Sandwiches will continue to be eaten in the classrooms. We will stagger the hall times slightly so that there is only one year group in the hall at any one time.

## Snack time

The Government fruit and vegetable scheme is continuing therefore we will provide your child with a snack.



## So the main things to remember are:



- Bring your child to school between 8:45am and 9:00am
- Use the one way system each morning to ensure a smooth quick drop off
- Pick up your child at 3:10pm outside the doors on the playground
- Wear school uniform
- Wear plain black trainers or school shoes
- Bring a water bottle—named everyday
- Bring a packed lunch or order a school meal
- Check the weekly communication after 3:00pm each Friday for updates

## Working Together

We know these times continue to bring challenges to our daily lives and that everything causes more thinking through and planning. We do truly know how hard this is as we are in this with you too.

We are still always willing to speak to you if you have any issues, concerns or questions. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher or any other member of staff at any time, please make an appointment by emailing or calling the school office. We will get in touch with you via a phone call or email.

We are all looking forward to working through this together in our family community. We can not wait to have you all back!

Cate Gregory  
Head teacher

Laura Watts  
Deputy Head teacher

and the Shirley Infant Team





## How will my child be supported in September

This year has been a very different journey for our children and the community, We know that it has brought many challenges for our families. Please remember you have all been in very different situations in your households. It is important you do not compare yourself to another family as everyone has had different difficulties along the way. You did not sign up for remote learning and you have all done brilliantly with the remote learning you have managed to do around working too.

We would like to reassure you for September that as teachers we are very used to planning differentiated activities to support children at the different stages of their learning. This situation will be no different for us. The staff have been working hard on our recovery curriculum and we are ready to support your little ones from the stage of their learning. Please do not compare to others, we will be able to guide your little one in the Autumn term from their starting point when they are back with us back in September.

The Team always aim for our children to:-

- Be happy, settled and enjoy coming to school
- Feel safe and secure
- Be socially confident and make new friends readily
- Relate confidently to adults in school
- Ask questions, investigate and develop an enjoyment of learning
- Face new experiences and challenges with enthusiasm
- Have opportunities to be creative and imaginative
- Develop increasing independence and a sense of responsibility
- Make good progress in all areas of learning - emotional, social, physical and intellectual

This September will be no different it will just be exemplified. We will have a nurture time each day which encourages children to explain how they are feeling. We have been running these sessions this year and the children have responded to them amazingly. This will be a session in addition to everything we are doing.



# Helping your Child at Home



We have a range of activities we send home to support your child's learning in different areas of the curriculum. These are activities where you can if you wish continue to build on their learning in school. Examples of these are:

## PSHE Activities (Personal, Social Health and Emotional Aspects of Learning)



PSHE has always been fundamental through our school. We have always been highly praised by visitors and Ofsted across all of our reports. This year will be no different to any other it will just exemplify it even more. Your little one is going to have a lot to take in so why don't you help them tell you about their day using these questions?

1. What was the best or worst part of your day today?
2. What was the funniest thing you saw today?
3. What was the best part of lunch?
4. Which part of your classroom do you think I would like best?
5. Which activity at school today was your favourite or least favourite?
6. What made you feel happy today?
7. Who did you help today? Or who helped you today?

This should hopefully change from when you ask your child "what have you done today"? You usually get the answer 'nothing' or "Who did you play with today"? They respond 'No one'. Practice them over the holidays at teatime.



## TRY THIS: DFE Activity Passport The Summer Holiday Challenge

The DFE launched this passport last year and we thought it was so lovely we wish to promote the activity passport that you can do with you little ones again.

Please follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/my-activity-passport>

We can all struggle at times with the holidays and trying to fill the time with low cost activities to keep us all busy. There are some lovely ideas that you can do.

Happy making and hunting!





# School Rewards

We will still continue to praise your little one using our school systems. We will have stickers in their baskets which they can pick up themselves or teachers will be passing them on a special ruler.

## **Behaviour Chart**

If your child comes home with a smiley face sticker this means they have got to the really happy side of our behaviour chart. They need to be at this point at the end of the day and they will then come home with a blue, red or green sticker like this:



Please remember if they have stayed on the middle or got to the happy side then this means they have still had a brilliant day. The sticker means they have had an extra good day. We are looking for good behaviour choices to move them up on the chart (please see the behaviour policy on the website if you would like more detail on this).

## **Learning Styles**

These are our soft skills that we value very highly. School council voted for our 4 key learning values that we have adopted. These values are Perseverance, Co-operation, Independence and Curiosity. We have an allocated puppet to each learning value that the children can collect and take back to their classrooms. Alongside this, the staff and puppets will look out for children who are demonstrating a value and they will share their achievement with the Senior Leadership team. We love to see the children and listen to them telling us why they have achieved the learning value and then receive their sticker. The characters who represent the learning value are :

- Iggy encourages independence skills
- Cowan and Colana encourage Co-operation skills
- Cubert encourages curiosity
- Perse encourages perseverance
- Heartwell encourages looking after each other



So if your child is seen to be demonstrating one of our values the Senior Leadership team will send home a Marvellous Me text to share with you. They will also receive one of these stickers in their books when they have demonstrated a learning value within their work, play, friendships and achievements. The office has a supply of cards with pictures of the puppets included for your reference if required.

## **Star of the week**

We have a celebration assembly every week normally in the children's year groups. This will happen initially in classrooms until the bubbles area allowed to grow. Here we celebrate birthdays, outside achievements such as swimming or sports certificates. Alongside this, each class has a star of the week. Here the children receive a certificate which recognises a special achievement to them. They get to come up in front of their year group to receive their certificate and badge. The badge looks like this:





## FAMILY SUPPORT

We firmly believe in working together as a whole school community. Karen is now based in our community room which you can access through the double yellow gates from the Junior children's entrance. She is open 9:30 till 1:00 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday's. Pop and see her if you need support or advice. Karen would normally carry out visits to the home and a coffee session. However at this current time this will not be possible. Karen will be able to arrange a meeting with you safely in school though.



In case you didn't know: Shirley Infant School employs a Family Support Worker, Karen Allen. Karen normally runs informal drop in sessions once a month giving emotional and practical help and advice to families that are having long or short-term difficulties. This may be helping with bed-time routines, homework or fussy eating, so please come along and find out if she can assist in any way. A key part of her work is to help parents and can be an extra listening ear or help you access different agencies or support services. Karen has supported many of our families and you can ask to see her for a meeting or catch her in the playground for quick advice.



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