

THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Principal: Mr. J.Hartley
Head of School: Mrs K Jones
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs V Gidney

Dear Parent/Carer,

Plans for full reopening in September – update

The time to return to school is fast approaching and everyone in school is getting excited to see the children! Most children will be returning to school on Monday 7th September but there are different arrangements for children in Early Years.

When we wrote to you last, we informed you that our risk assessment was being reviewed and signed off by United Learning to ensure it covers all the important areas of safety. This has now been done and you can read our risk assessment by visiting our website at www.thevictoryprimary.co.uk. We will keep this under constant review and update it regularly as needed.

These are the other things you need to know. As you can imagine there are quite a few 'dos and don'ts'.

1. Guidance on bringing your child to school:

- Please ensure that children wash their hands before setting off.
- Aim to set off to arrive just in time for your child's start time. (If you have more than one child with different start times, drop them all off at the earliest time.)
- Until further notice, your child should only bring their packed lunch box and coat (if needed) to school. They should not bring stationery, toys, football cards etc to school.
- All pupils should wear school uniform except on the days when they do PE. On these days they should wear their PE kit.
- On your journey to school avoid contact with people who are not in your child's bubble. (ie their year group.)
- Only one adult should escort the child on to the school premises.
- Please observe a social distance from other parents
- You may enter the school from either gate. Please follow the arrows. There are directions to different classrooms. Class names are on the outside doors.
- If you set off at the right time there should be no need to wait at classroom doors, however in this eventuality please wait in the playground away from the doors at a social distance and wait for the classroom door to be opened.
- The adventure playground is not in use for children to play on for the time being.
- If you have a brief message for your child's teacher, please ensure that you keep your social distance when you give it. Longer messages/conversations will not be able to take place at the beginning or end of the school day. In the first instance, please email questions to: Admin1@thevictory.portsmouth.sch.uk. We will get back to you as soon as possible. We are afraid that in the short to medium term things will not be the

same as they were with regard to communicating with school, however your child's teacher will shortly be sending you a news/information letter which will include his/her email address.

- Please drop your child off at the classroom door-do not go in. We recognize that initially this will be difficult for some children and their parents/carers but it is essential to help keep children, families and staff safe. Should children be upset/reluctant to come into school I am afraid that parents will have to deal with the situation as staff will be required to keep their social distance.
- When you have dropped off your child, please leave. (In the event that you have something that needs to be delivered to the school office, e.g. medicines, please wear a face mask, enter the reception area by the front door, use the sanitiser, keep your social distance. You will be protected from the office staff (and vice versa) by a protective screen.
- Children will go directly to their designated seat and put their bag under the table. (There is a slightly different system for lunch boxes in early years and year 1.) They will then wash their hands and then return to their seat. This will be explained on the first day back.

2. Helping the children

Many of the children have not now been in school since March and might feel a little anxious about coming back into school. This is perfectly normal. Please talk your children through the arrangements for coming back to school so that they know what to expect when they get there. E.g. explain that they will be working in year group 'bubbles', they will have playtimes just with their year group, there will be lots of hand washing etc.

Their new teachers created videos and Sways for the children back in July to help the children feel like they had met their new teachers. It would be helpful if you encouraged your child to watch these videos again before returning to school so that they are reminded who their new teacher is and can feel like they know them a bit. All of these Sways and videos can be found on our school website and on our Facebook page.

3. Wearing Masks

In line with Government advice, the wearing masks in primary school is not recommended and we will not be asking any of the children to wear any. In fact, with young children, masks can cause more risk of infection because of the temptation to keep touching them and your face. If you have a child who is 11 or older and your child has to wear a mask on public transport, or you chose to make your child wear a mask on the way to school, this is perfectly acceptable and we understand this. Once your child is at school however, they will need to remove their mask. This is the procedure that your child will be asked to follow to remove their mask:

- a) Child to wash their hands with soap and water
- b) The child brings in a small bag to school
- c) Child removes their mask, touching only the straps around the back of the head.
- d) Child puts their mask into the bag, which is then tied up and put under the child's desk until the end of the day.
- e) Child then again washes their hands.

If child is unable to do this on their own, home is informed and asked to practise this procedure.

4. Lunch

As we communicated in an earlier message: we will be providing cold school dinners in the short term which will be delivered to the children in their classrooms. Lunches will be sandwiches meat or vegetarian (e.g. cheese) a piece of fruit, a piece of cake, yogurt, and drink. As before, pupils entitled to FSM and all pupils in Early years, Year 1 and Year 2 will not have to pay for a lunch. If you do not fall into these categories, and would like your child to have a school "packed lunch, then please pay online via Tucasi. We are trying to stop money handling in the office due to Covid. If you are not sure how to do this, please phone the school office.

If your child brings a packed lunch box to school, please wipe it down with hot water at the end of every day and put it through the washing machine every week.

What can you do?

- Follow us on social media and read all the material on the school website.
- Re-read the information on the school website on start times, breakfast club, after school club etc.
- Any Covid 19 Symptoms or tested positive in last 14 days – Contact track and trace, let us know and stay away from school. (See how to get a test post on school website)
- Make sure that your contact details up to date
- Consider how you are getting to school and what your set off time needs to be
- Let us know if you will be taking public transport
- Practise getting up early
- Stick to the rules in school –we are all in this together
- Be nice to the staff-they are doing their best. A lot of this is new to them too.
- Be prepared for more changes as we respond to Government and local advice

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hartley
Executive Headteacher



Mrs K Jones
Headteacher