



Awliscombe C of E (VA) Primary School
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Head of School: Mrs Vicky Morris



Payhembury C of E (VC) Primary School
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Head of School: Mr Nick Bladon

The FORT Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Penny Hammett

3rd November 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy half term. As seems the norm now everything is changing again for the nation. However, hopefully life in school will not be too different. We have had the opportunity to discuss and review current practices and in line with the new lockdown guidance we are making a couple of slight changes.

Firstly, from Thursday or sooner if possible, we would encourage adults dropping and picking up children to wear a face mask when entering the playground. Staff members will not be available on the playground for discussion and they will wear PPE if possible contact with non-staff adults will be made. Please remember only one adult to drop off or pick up and please leave the school vicinity as soon as your child is under the supervision of a staff member.

You do not need to wait around until your child's class leaves the playground. It will be important to keep adult contact around the gates of the school to a minimum. Please remember not to chat together in the car park as it is a space everyone uses and close contact can cause raised anxieties for people during this difficult time.

If you need to discuss anything urgent with your class teacher, please call the office. If non-urgent then please send an email for the attention of your class teacher, they will respond as soon as possible.

I appreciate this is not ideal, I know you miss the contact with the teachers but I need to follow these measures to ensure I can keep everyone as safe as possible.

The updated guidance has told schools to continue with their current risk assessment and few changes need to be made during the working day.

Up to now we have had full use of the school field and we have tried to keep the children outdoors during playtimes and windows open to aid good ventilation. However, as the weather is changing and it is becoming colder the children need to be dressed in the correct uniform (school jumpers please) and prepared for the colder wetter weather. Please send in a pair of wellies to keep in school and a waterproof coat. We are trying to keep the children outside as much as possible. I would also encourage waterproof trousers if they want to continue to play football.

Our staggered starts and finishes have been mostly successful. The mornings work particularly well. Thank you for your support with these. We are encouraging both Ash at 9.10am and Willow (now also including Pre-School) at 9.15am to walk straight into class



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and their class teachers will be waiting to welcome them by the undercover area. We want to limit the time the children need to spend waiting on the playground in the mornings. Afternoons are staying the same. Please keep to the times allocated for your child as it makes the whole process work safely and smoothly.

I can confirm we will be offering an online 'parent evening' meeting with your class teacher. The office will shortly be sending an invitation to book an appointment online using a new programme we have recently purchased. I am hopeful it will be a positive experience as I am aware it is the same program as The Kings have successfully used this term.

Finally, I wanted to give a quick update on Mrs Fould's health. She is making slow progress but I am glad to say she is on the mend. I know it has been a long few weeks for her and she is missing everyone desperately but I am keeping a close eye on her and hopefully she will be well enough to return to school soon.

Thank you for your concerns and positive messages of support. They have meant a great deal to her and it's a reflection on what a caring community we share.

Please contact me if you have any other worries or issues and I will get back to you. Don't forget I have the school mobile on for COVID 19 related issues.

Have a good week,

With regards,

Mrs Penny Hammett

Penny Hammett
Executive headteacher
FORT Federation