



PANSHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Holt BEd (Hons.)

Tuesday 7th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school in September.

We are very grateful for your patience in what has been such a difficult time for the whole country and for schools in particular. We can only apologise that we have not been able to complete our usual transition process as the children move up the school, but that has been beyond our control. We have now received the Government guidance for schools for the Autumn Term.

The Government have made it very clear that they would like all children to return to school - *'it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:*

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct'*

If any parents are concerned about their child returning in September please email head@panshanger.herts.sch.uk or ring the school office so we can discuss any worries.

Please remember to only bring your child to school if they are well, if anyone in the household displays any of the symptoms of Covid 19 e.g. fever, cough, loss of sense of smell and taste etc. they should stay at home and arrange a test. This can be done very easily and quickly through <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> Please follow the advice you are given by NHS England and inform the school if your child or anyone in the family tests positive.

If your child is unable to attend school for another reason e.g. normal sickness etc., please ring the school in the normal way to inform us of their absence as soon as possible.

Panshanger Primary School

Daniells, WGC, Herts. AL7 1QY Tel: 01707 328846, Fax: 01707 393543, E-mail: admin@panshanger.herts.sch.uk

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In September, we have been asked to continue to limit the number of adults on site at any point, we will therefore be running staggered start and finish times to the school day - meaning each class will have slightly different times. We are running each class or Key Stage as a 'bubble' allowing these children to mix amongst themselves but not with the rest of the school. This means that the children in Nursery and Reception will be classified as a Foundation Stage bubble, Year 1 and 2 will be grouped together, as will year 3 and 4 and finally years 5 and 6.

We would ask that only one parent accompanies the child to school and has limited contact with the other parents and members of staff. If you have anything you need to discuss with members of staff, it may be easier to ring the office or email the member of staff. All the class teachers gave their work email on their recent home learning letter.

Timings for the school day - September 2020:

Years 5 & 6: 8.30am - 3.00pm (Friday 1.45pm)

Years 3 & 4: 8.35am - 3.05pm (Friday 1.50pm)

Years 1 & 2: 8.40am - 3.10pm (Friday 1.55pm)

Rather than bringing the children to the classroom in the morning, each class will have a meeting point where staff will be waiting. The teacher will bring the class back to the meeting point at the end of the day. This system has worked very well since we have had more children in school (from 1st June) and parents have helped considerably by being on time for their class slots. I do appreciate this will make it very hard for parents with children in more than one class and can only apologise for any inconvenience this causes. The walkways around the school are simply too narrow and large groups cannot socially distance correctly if they are waiting in these areas.

Years 6, 3, 1 will meet on the main driveway

Years 5, 4 and 2 on the small playground.

Please do not walk down the main driveway to get to the small playground make use of the side entrance to the school.

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Nursery and reception children have been sent a separate letter with their timings on. As these children are new to the school (and are still very young) the parent accompanying them can bring the children to the classroom door where they will be met by the teacher - please socially distance as much as possible whilst waiting. If the social distancing regulations are still being enforced, we will review this as the term goes on and as the children become more used to being in school, we will ask them to wait in the playground as the other children will be doing.

Whilst in school, the children do not need to socially distance as the Government recognise they are too young to fully understand and that the primary curriculum is not designed to work in that way. We will encourage the older children to try to maintain their distance and their classrooms may be laid out slightly differently. We will not be holding whole school assemblies and will be splitting play times & lunch times so that the children are not all in contact with each other.

The children are allowed to bring bags from home but we would ask that they have limited possessions e.g. reading books and reading record / PE kit / pencil cases (for the older children) etc. Please try not to send a very large bag as we do not have space for these in the cloakrooms.

Early morning club will begin again in September, to allow more space for the children we will be using the dining room as well as the small teaching room, the children will still enter the school through the usual door by the small teaching room. The club will run from 7.45am and staff will make sure the children get to their class meeting points at the correct times.

Please see separate letter about booking a place for EMC.

Please email / ring the school office if we can help in any way.

Best wishes,
Mrs Sarah Holt
(Headteacher)

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