

Important messages for parents and carers in readiness for September 2021 return



- Covid considerations
- Key Dates reminder and procedural updates
- School uniform compliance
- Punctuality and Attendance
- Drop off and Collection
- After School Sport Clubs
- Hot Lunches
- Communication
- Emails

Covid considerations:

By the time the new academic year begins, bubble and isolation restrictions currently in place across UK schools will have changed. Whilst there will be some practices required to manage proven positive cases, the following procedures should be noted by all.

There will be no staggered starts for St Paul's of September. Gates will **open at 8:30am** and school classes will be open to all at **8:40am**. At the end of the day, gates open 2:50pm and school will finish at **3:00pm**.

There will be no class or group bubbles. Children will be able to mix in all aspects of school life.

School will not close to groups for single cases anymore.

The requirement for other children (all under 18s) to isolate following a close contact with a positive Covid 19 case ended on 16th August. Responsibility for reporting and informing close proximity contacts will shift from schools to the NHS Track and Trace systems.

Adults (including teachers) who have received both inoculations (jabs) will not be required to isolate unless they too have symptoms.

If your child has symptoms, they will still be expected to isolate in line with wider government guidance and you must get them tested.

Key dates reminder and procedural updates.

School starts for the children on **Tuesday 7th September**. Term dates have already been issued on the school website. School will be open to all from 8:40am until 3:00pm. **Registration at 8:50am and registers close at 9:00am.**

INSET dates reminder:

Monday 6th September
Monday 25th July

Tuesday 4th January
Tuesday 26th July

Monday 27th June

First day in September

Children in Year 3 only to head into the Hall to be collected by their class teacher.

Children in Years 4/5/6 wait in main playground and on sound of the bell, head to their new classes. Staff will be available to guide children.

Important: Parents are permitted onto the school grounds (in line with current arrangements) at the start and end of the school day; however, parents can continue to collect from variety of areas outside the school to help reduce numbers on the site. Please arrange with your child and inform their class teacher through Class Dojo.

Entrance to school

Access to the school reception area will remain restricted to avoid overcrowding (max 2 people). Anyone wishing to enter the school must do so **via the main school entrance** and this may require you to be patient. We are also requesting parents to wear a face covering whilst in the school buildings. Parents are not to go into the classrooms/corridors without prior arrangement.

No cash payments

A reminder that cash payments will not be accepted by the school office. All other payments, including school dinners and trips should be continued to be paid through Parentmail.

Contact details

Please ensure that if you change your mobile phone or number you inform us of this. It is **vital** that we have your up-to-date details so that we can contact you in an emergency.

Physical Education

PE lessons will commence in full as of September and children can wear their PE kits, plain T-shirts, with their new PE Hoodie (no football shirts or other type of hoodies are allowed) on their designated PE Day:

Year 3 on Thursday

Year 4 on Monday

Year 5 on Wednesday

Year 6 on Tuesday

School Uniform – Remember, remember, school shoes in September!

The school has not placed too much pressure on parents/carers to adhere to the school uniform policy during the pandemic. This was in recognition of the financial pressures placed on some families and the recognition that some were reluctant to buy new uniform (notably school shoes) so close to the end of the academic year, and at the same time running the risk of being placed in repeated isolations.

As of September there is an expectation of adherence to policy once more.

Policy states: Children are to attend school in/with the following items, in a clean and good condition:

blue sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan

blue or white polo shirt

grey/black school trousers/skirt/shorts or pinafore dress

black, sturdy, flat soled 'school specific' shoes without 'open toes' and suitable for all weathers. (trainers, crocs or other similar forms of footwear are not appropriate).

The full school uniform policy is available on the school website.

Punctuality and Attendance

A reminder to all that persistent absenteeism has a significant impact on your child's education, particularly in light of the number of enforced forced absences during pandemic lockdowns and isolations.

Your child's academic recovery is reliant on good attendance.

It is the Department of Education/Ofsted that dictate attendance below 95% is poor and that below 90% is 'persistent absenteeism'. The reasons for this have been made clear before; good attendance is vital for the success of pupils and their wellbeing. Our own school data, as well as that issued nationally, makes clear that poor attendance results in poorer outcomes for children.

Attendance - the law

Children must attend school under the Education Act 1989 (revised). Poor attendance at school can result in one or more of the following:

- a Parenting Order
- an Education Supervision Order
- a School Attendance Order
- a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice')

Please note that attendance related to Covid that is not linked to a direct positive test outcome for the pupil will not be authorised, nor will absences resulting from wider Covid related concerns/anxieties raised by parents.

Drop off and collection to school – Punctuality matters

Arriving to school late for either drop off or collection places significant pressures on staff and restricts the support we can give to other pupils, not to mention the challenges it places on the child themselves.

After School Sport Clubs

Timetables and consent forms will be sent home soon with further information. Pupils that attend a sports club must bring their PE kit to school to change into unless it is their PE day.

Hot Lunches

Hot lunches will be available on return to school in September. Menu choices and meal booking are only available via Parentmail and must be booked on a weekly basis. Our Catering company has produced a 4 week rolling menu to include a daily meat or vegetarian option, including Gluten Free.

Meals cost £2.40 per day and are invoiced on a weekly basis. Those families entitled to Free School meals will still be required to book a meal via Parentmail but will not be invoiced.

Communication

Dojo letters will be sent home next week, for those not already linked to their new class. A polite reminder that dojo is the best way to have contact directly with class teachers or teaching assistant. However, for urgent messages please phone the **school office 01749 343250** as teachers are unable to check dojo during lesson time.

Emails

Office@stpaulsjs.co.uk main email contact for school

Welfare@stpaulsjs.co.uk to request support, this email is read only by PFSA and Headteacher

PFSA@stpaulsjs.co.uk Parent and Family Support (Beth White)

We hope you have a relaxing last few days of the Summer holidays and we are all looking forward to welcoming you back to St Paul's. If you have any questions please email or call the school office this week.

Thank you
St Paul's Staff