



# The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Achieving Together for a Brighter Future

The purpose of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives

**Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)**

A University of Chichester  
ITT Partner School



2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

*We are aware of today's news, however at the time of going to print we are working on the information we have from LA, and that is that our schools MUST open on Monday as planned. Obviously if there are developments over the weekend that change the LAs position on this we will let you know as soon as we are able to.*

We hope that you had a lovely Christmas, a chance to rest and spend time with your family. The staff team and I wish you all a happy and, most importantly, healthy New Year.

Certainly, for the Island, this holiday proved to be a rapidly changing picture as we went from Covid rating tier 1 to tier 4 in a matter of days. We fully understand the emotions and concerns this sudden change raises.

We, like you, waited intently on the Government's announcement regarding schools. After learning that primary schools on the Island are expected to open, we have reviewed the stringent measures we have already put in place, to further maximise everyone's safety.

Going forward, we will be expecting the following from our families and staff. We thank you for your support in advance.

## Face Coverings

Staff members will be wearing face masks or shields in all communal areas and they will have the option to wear them whilst they are working with the children. We will be explaining this to the children upon their return to school. We ask that you talk to your children about what to expect, especially if they are younger. We do not want them to be unsettled by this change, although we need to maximise safety.

## Ventilation

We will be keeping classroom windows open during lesson times to increase ventilation. We already had this in place, although since the weather is consistently colder, please can you ensure that your child brings their coat and an extra jumper into school should they get chilly in class.

Please could we also ask that your child has suitable outside footwear as we will be using the school field in all weathers.

## Drop Off and Pick Up

Drop off and pick up times remain the same. We ask that parents are prompt in dropping off and collecting the children. We ask that parents on the Yarmouth and Freshwater site keep socially distanced in the playground and we would greatly appreciate it if you would wear a mask or face shield.

At Shalfleet, we ask that you continue to open and close your own car doors.

Shalfleet CE Primary, Station Road, Ningwood, Newport, Isle of Wight. PO30 4NN

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## Reduction in staff across bubbles

Over the last few days, we have worked hard to minimise the number of staff we have working across bubbles. This is for the children's and staff's safety. Therefore, there may be occasions where there are staff changes.

## Visits to School

We will not be welcoming any visitors onto the school site, unless it is absolutely necessary for safeguarding, wellbeing or health and safety. If we have to have a visitor on site, we will be asking them to wear a face covering at all times, regularly sanitise or wash their hands and we will be keeping their contacts with other people to a minimum.

We ask that parents contact the school via telephone, rather than coming into the reception. If it is absolutely necessary that parents need to enter the school building, please can we ask that you wear a face covering.

All meetings will be taking place via Zoom. If you need to attend a meeting but do not have the technology, please speak to the school reception and we will support you.

## Staffing

We are incredibly fortunate across the Federation to have a highly professional and skilled team. Their dedication to the schools and their unfaltering care for the children has been awe inspiring during this incredibly challenging time.

We ask that parents are considerate going forward if there is a change of staffing or if members of staff have to self-isolate or shield. We are doing all we can to provide as much continuity for the children as possible, yet we are aware that a situation can change very quickly and we will need to be flexible.

The care of the children, their safety, education and wellbeing is of utmost importance. We will do all we can to ensure the smooth running of the schools. By working in partnership with you, we will overcome any challenges which come our way together. Your understanding is always greatly appreciated.

## Suspected Coronavirus in school

Please ensure that you do not bring your children to school or on the school premises if they show signs of being unwell or you believe they could have been exposed to coronavirus.

Please ensure that the school has the most up to date contact details for family members and alternative contacts.

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If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be contacted immediately. We ask that you keep your telephones on and close at hand and that should you receive a telephone call, you pick your child up immediately and follow government guidance.

Should the school receive confirmation of a confirmed case, then we will take guidance from the DfE (Department for Education) and Public Health England (PHE) and will inform all relevant parties as detailed in the Risk Assessment. The same applies to Local Lockdown situations, where the school will take guidance/instruction from the Local Authority.

We will make sure that we keep you regularly updated about any changes to infection control procedures or operational running of the school as necessary.

We hope this letter has gone some way in allaying any concerns that you have. We are in unprecedented times but with the support and care, which runs through our Federation, we will get through this time together – with the children's and staff's safety and wellbeing at the forefront of all that we do.

With warmest regards,

Elizabeth Grainger and Georgina Westhorpe

Mrs Grainger  
Headteacher

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