

Miss R Howell
Chief Executive Officer

Miss J Murray
Headteacher

E-mail: sturry@stouracademytrust.org.uk



Sturry Church of England Primary School
Park View
Sturry
Canterbury
Kent
CT2 0NR
Tel: (01227) 710477

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all, thank you for your forbearance and understanding this morning. We are conscious that on the first day of the new school year, after a period of extended absence, we're all trying to find a new way forwards and whilst I know that there are issues to iron out, please be assured, that as the safeguarding of our children is our highest priority, we have thought carefully about our procedures to ensure we are following government guidelines.

One of the greatest challenges we currently face in ensuring measures are followed is the geographical situation of our school. Being at the (very short) end of a cul de sac presents real challenges for distancing when dealing with 120 children entering school at the same time.

In conjunction with our plans to review the process after day one, a number of points that parents raised this morning are also valid and we firmly believe in working together to find a better way forward. In light of this and the situation, we'd like to clarify some things:

1. We have listened to concerns about 'bottle necks' at the school gate. We would therefore like to invite parents of children in Year 1 and 2 to walk their children into school and drop them at the back door of their classroom. Distancing measures are already in place on all the walkways and hopefully this will alleviate the volume of parents at the gate.
2. It is essential that parents **only** arrive at your child's drop off time. Similarly, at collection time, please depart promptly. I appreciate that today was a new scenario and many parents wanted to wish their child well, but arriving ahead of time causes congestion in the street and therefore distancing becomes impossible, causing anxiety in children and families. If you arrive early, please stay in the car, or at a distance from the school.
3. Where possible, only one family member to drop off a child/children would be greatly appreciated to further disperse crowds.
4. Adults will be at the gate to welcome children in KS2 into school and hold up signs to show the class names from now on. This will help children understand more easily where they should be going. Please adhere to the side of the road that your child comes into school via.
5. Holding time is **only** for children with siblings in this school, in order to save parents having to make more than one journey. Your children can come in at the **earliest** start time of the sibling and make their way to their own classes. An adult will be in

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the classroom to supervise. For parents who have work commitments or other school runs to make, breakfast club is part of our wrap around care options.

We want to work together with you to ensure everyone continues to feel happy and safe to come to school. Thank you for all your support during these strange times and as ever, we look forward to the new term ahead.

Please see the following pages for a clear picture of the procedures for your child as of tomorrow (Thursday 3rd September) and a map outlining them.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Murray, Miss Metcalf, Mrs Powell and Mrs Stokes

Senior Leadership Team
Sturry Church of England Primary School
The Stour Academy Trust

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Children in Year 6 arrival:

1. Arrival time is 9:15 prompt unless you also have a sibling in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 or 4.
2. Please line up on the right hand side of the path – this is the pathway to Pre-School.
3. An adult will come to greet you
4. Parents will say goodbye to their children at the school gate and the adult will take the children into class.

Children in Year 6 departure:

1. An adult will bring the children to the front gate at 3:30

