



# What Matters at Sidcot Junior School from September 2020

[sidcot.org.uk](http://sidcot.org.uk)



**Sidcot**  
Live Adventurously

# Introduction

Dear Parents

After what has been a challenging time for everyone as we have battled with the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are now looking forward to September and are planning for the return to a full educational offer at Sidcot Junior School. I have been working with the Junior School Senior Management Team to put in place arrangements that allow us to open safely and in accordance with the prevailing Government guidelines. However, as we prepare these plans in early July we are aware that they may be subject to revision before September. With this in mind, we have made the following assumptions in our planning:

- 1. Full school opening – Senior School, Junior School and Boarding;**
- 2. Social distancing of 1 metre where possible;**
- 3. Two week quarantine period on site for Senior School international boarders on entry to the UK, in line with prevailing Government advice;**
- 4. Current infection control measures in place.**

I hope you will find the information we have produced of interest and, more importantly, reassuring that we have carefully considered all aspects of school life to make sure that the highest standards of hygiene, safety and pastoral care are maintained for all students and staff. We will update you with any changes to our plans, should this be necessary, over the summer holiday period. However, if you have any further questions, please get in touch on email address: **Natalie.Bone@sidcot.org.uk**

In the meantime, I hope you stay safe and have an enjoyable break over the summer. We are very excited about welcoming all the children and families back to Sidcot in September!

With kind regards

*Natalie Bone*

Natalie Bone  
Head of the Junior School



# Start of year arrangements

In addition to our normal start of year arrangements, we have factored an additional opportunity for new children, their buddies and any who would benefit from a gentler introduction back to school before all the children return on Wednesday 2 September.

**Please see the table below for the return dates to School.**

We are planning a careful return to school routine, and this will include helping children to understand the new protocols and other safety measures related to the management and containment of Coronavirus in school. We are also including staff training to equip us to support children to deal with

the diverse effects that Coronavirus and lockdown has had.

As with the rest of our planning, these arrangements are in line with current Government guidance and the assumptions for September outlined earlier. They may, therefore, be subject to revision over the summer, in which case, we will communicate further.

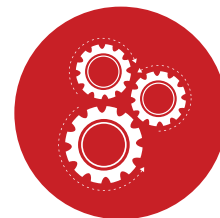
Date	Activity	Attendees
Wednesday 26 August	Staff CPD – Day 1	All JS Staff
Thursday 27 August	Staff CPD – Day 2	All JS Staff
Wednesday 2 September	New pupil Orientation/ re-acclimatisation	All JS Teaching Staff
Thursday 3 September	Start of term	All students All JS Staff



Please note all photographs used in this brochure were taken prior to the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

# What's different...

## in our organisation & operations



Our top priority when school opens again is maintaining the health and safety of everyone on campus. As we are still likely to be in the phase of controlling and managing Coronavirus, there are steps that we are putting in place in how we operate the school day, which may be a little different.

We hope that these measures will be reassuring and help us all feel well protected and confident in our time at Sidcot, whether as a pupil, parent or member of staff.

### At School

**Cleaning regime:** enhanced cleaning particularly of frequently touched surfaces, toilets, classrooms and boarding houses.

**Hygiene:** posters reminding everyone about washing and sanitising hands; sanitisers available at all entrances and frequent intervals around all circulation spaces.

**Classroom set-up:** the classrooms have had all unnecessary furniture removed and the individual desks will be arranged to comply with social distancing requirements.

**Movement around the School:** circulation spaces will be managed to enable children to keep some distance and signs will help to remind them of what to do.

**Refectory and food provision:** the delivery and consumption of food will be managed in such a way as to minimise possible infection and keep things safe for everyone.



**Trips and visits expectations:** trips and visits can take place and these will be risk assessed to ensure they are safe for everyone.

**Use of outside space:** plan to maximise the use of outside space; the School has numerous facilities for outdoor learning which will be used extensively.

**Risk assessments:** these will be developed for all areas of the school to ensure the safety of everyone and to minimise infection.

**Face masks:** We have been advised not to wear masks in school but children can should they wish to.

### Off-site

**Transport – day students:** will continue to walk, be delivered to School by car or travel on the school bus, where they will be obliged to wear face masks. Day students will be discouraged from travelling on public transport.

# What matters... in our teaching and learning



We understand that returning to School might feel a little daunting, but we wanted to reassure you that your teachers have provided lots of work through the Online Supported Learning (OSL) that will have helped you to stay on top of things however, we understand that the amount you have completed is variable and that is ok.

It is natural to feel like you may not be able to remember everything you have learnt in the past, but on the return to school we will be supporting all students to regain confidence in their academic learning and progress. **What matters** is that we help everyone to be on their feet and raring to go, as soon as we have all had time to adjust to being back at school.

We are always excited to challenge ourselves with making our **Teaching and Learning at Sidcot** continually more exciting and effective. Our Sidcot Learning Wheel skills have certainly been at work, even during lockdown, with resilience, self-managing and research skills, in particular, having the chance to bloom!

looking closely at variety of teaching methods and activities in the classroom, best practice for behaviour and how what we have learnt from recent events can continue to improve learning for all.

**What matters** to us most is ensuring our learning community continues to draw strength from working together. Collaboration between students, teachers and parents has hugely increased and we do not want to lose this – the research tells us this enriches everybody’s experiences and creates the best environment for learning to thrive.

## Sport

We are preparing ourselves to run a full sports programme from September and we are looking forwards to Games, PE and after school activities. How these sessions are run will be dependent on the prevailing guidance from the Government on social distancing and student contact at the time. Although it may not be completely back to normal in terms of what equipment we use and how close everybody can get, there is so much we can do to get active in school once again regardless.

Our Junior School Sports Lead is working closely alongside other IAPS schools to determine when matches will resume, and planning lots of exciting sport activities for the meantime including some inter house matches.

## Outdoor learning

Sidcot will be embracing Outdoor Learning opportunities in our beautiful campus and making the most of the huge range of inspirational spaces where learning can take place. We will also be



# What matters...

## about pastoral care



We recognise the impact Covid-19 will have had on all our students' wellbeing, and feeling nervous when initially coming back to Sidcot will be commonplace for many. The emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of our students are central to considering how we can best support students to transition back into school upon re-opening the School campus.

Sidcot is particularly mindful to prioritise providing a safe and nurturing environment in which students can settle and thrive and which is conducive to learning.

### Community

Sidcot recognises that **Community is the foundation** of recovering from the experiences of Covid-19 and lockdown.

- Some students who we already recognise as maybe feeling anxious about the return to school will be invited to come into School early for orientation prior to school commencing for the rest of the school community.
- The role of the class teacher is central to creating a safe environment and students will spend most of their day with their class teacher and have the opportunity to connect, support and nurture.
- Our class sizes are deliberately small, so that supportive relationships can be established with ease.
- Our usual community events such as assemblies and our weekly Meeting for Worship will connect all students across the school, whether virtually or in person.





## Structure and routine

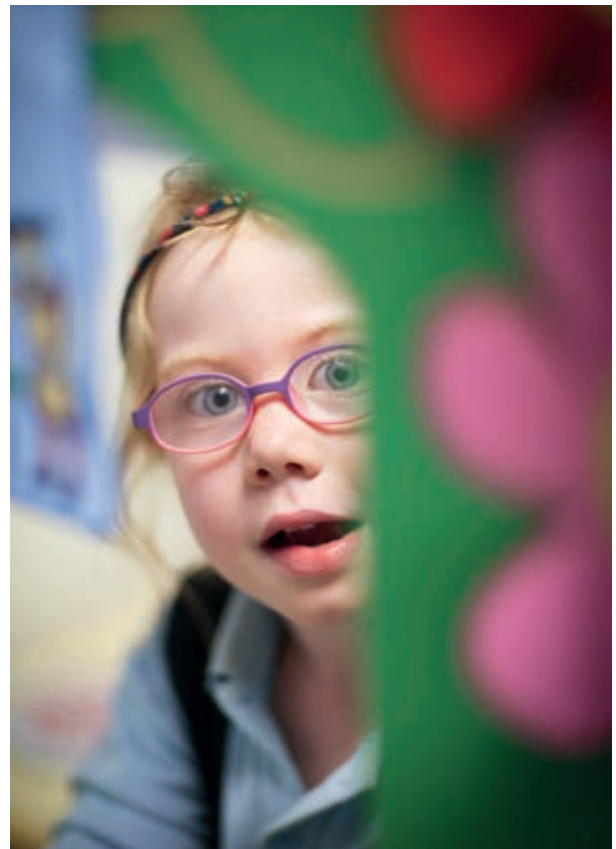
Whilst students need to be given time to adjust and to adapt, structure and routine will play a vital part in helping students settle.

- We plan for the routine during the school day to stay the same, albeit with some small adaptations to facilitate the safe circulation of students between lessons.
- School uniform will be worn as usual in School.
- Break times and lunch times: These are important times in the school day for our students and the aim is to ensure students can continue to socialise in a safe way.

## Mental health and wellbeing

Making time for students to talk and process will be key to helping settle our students back into the school environment.

- Structured times to talk about shared and individual experiences, such as in circle time and through PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) will be available to all students.
- We recognise that creative and physical activities through our co-curricular offer and outdoor learning will be excellent outlets for students, which will have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.
- Additional provision for students to talk when needed will be put into place with our Take Ten Mentor Jane and the School counsellor.





Sidcot School  
Oakridge Lane  
Winscombe  
North Somerset  
BS25 1PD

+44 (0)1934 843102 | [September2020@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:September2020@sidcot.org.uk)  
[www.sidcot.org.uk](http://www.sidcot.org.uk)

    [sidcotschool](#)

Registered Charity Number: 296491

