



## Autumn One

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

### What a wonderful start!

Wow, wow, wow! What a wonderful start to the autumn term! Our children, families and staff have worked extremely hard to follow our guidance in and around school and we are extremely proud of the way this has been done. Please continue to keep a safe distance between other families and ensure that children stay with their adults when arriving and leaving school.

### Exciting changes around school

As you may well have noticed, school is getting even more of a face lift! We are having a new school roof fitted and this is the reason for the scaffolding everywhere. Within school, there have been many changes too (with a few still ongoing)! Some of these include:

- A brand new library
- New coat cupboards in every classroom
- Two fantastic forest school areas
- A new nurture room

We can't wait to share some images with you over the coming weeks.

### Preventative measures

Below is the set of actions that we have put in place in school for the beginning of the autumn term.. These are set out in our risk assessment and are under review continuously. Please see the key points below:

- If you, your child or someone in your household has symptoms as described in the government guidance (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough lasting for more than an hour; a loss or change to your sense of taste/smell) you must not attend school.
  - Children and staff will clean their hands more often than usual and will use the available hand sanitiser.
    - In Y1 - Y6, children's desks are front facing and children are sitting side to side.
    - We will promote good respiratory hygiene by using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
      - Enhanced cleaning has been introduced during the school day.
      - A one way system when dropping children off and collecting children.
  - Contact will be minimised by children only mixing with their own class 'bubble' including playtimes and lunchtimes.
- The school hall will not be used for lunchtime or worship: for the time being, this will be carried out within classrooms.
  - Staggered break and lunchtimes have been organised to minimise mixing of children.
  - Children will have their own class set of equipment to use during break and lunchtimes.
    - Staff will wear PPE only when appropriate.
  - School procedures are in place for a child who presents with symptoms.



### Contact details

It is more important than ever that you ensure we have your most up to date details to contact you in the case of an emergency – and to keep you up to date with our plans. ParentMail is our main port of communication; if you do not have an account set up, please contact the school office. Below is a link that explains how ParentMail works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFOloJEGadw>

Guidance from the government is ever changing and contacting parents is vital during this time. Contact the school office if your details have changed or if you are unsure if we have your most up to date details. Parents will be able to call the school office with any questions or queries they may have as well as email them via [info@stalbansceacademy.com](mailto:info@stalbansceacademy.com). As teachers cannot currently speak with parents/carers on arrival or collection, it is important that we have your contact details to ensure teachers can contact you when needed.

### Our curriculum

Since January, staff have worked extremely hard on a new curriculum which will inspire and excite the children, and we are really excited to introduce some of our new topics to the children. With children having missed key teaching time in school during the pandemic, we have taken a slightly different approach for the beginning of the autumn term. Alongside our normal curriculum timetable, children will also have “recovery” Maths and English short lessons where children will revisit and recap key concepts from the previous year group as well as objectives not covered within the previous year due to time away from school.

For the first three weeks of term, we will also have even more of a focus on children’s mental health through at least two wellbeing and positivity sessions a week.

We will also be introducing a new phonics scheme from Nursery to Year 2 as well as whole class reading from Y2-Y6: we are extremely excited about the impact this will have on our children through their confidence, their fluency levels and their exposure to a wide range of texts.

### Reading books

Within government guidance, we will continue to send reading books home with the children to encourage reading at home as well as within school.

In terms of preventative measures, children will be sent out with one or two books (depending on year group and reading level) by the end of next week. Each week from then on, children will be sent out with new books on the Monday and will need to return them on the Friday. In doing this, the books being returned will be placed in a box where they will be left over the weekend (at least 48 hours) for quarantine.

After this, they will be returned to class libraries or the whole school library.



### A final note...

We would just like to say a big thank you once again for your endless support since March. We appreciate that there have been many changes and that systems and procedures are taking longer than normal, but we have been blown away by your kindness and appreciation during these difficult months. We are very much looking forward to this term when we can finally all be back together focusing on the learning and wellbeing of your children in our care.