



September

We know you are all itching to know what the plans are for September, which children are coming in, where and what we can/can't do etc. The Government have promised guidance this Friday, although if this is anything like the guidance we received when we re-opened for 1st June, this will need a LOT of working through.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to give you all the answers on Friday as it is going to take time to work out all the logistics (again). As this is also the busiest time of year, it may not be possible to give you all the answers you would like, as quickly as you like, but please be assured there will be a comprehensive plan winging its way to you as soon as possible.



Dropping Off

A gentle reminder that as per the risk assessment, we should only have one adult dropping off and picking up to limit the number of people on site at any one time. Thank you for your understanding.

School Garden

Thank you to FORO who have agreed to donate funds for the design and installation of a new school garden that will be situated close to the shepherd's hut. This will be multi-functional and a very attractive addition to the school grounds. Many thanks to all members of FORO and to all who have supported our fundraising events. The garden will be landscaped during the summer holidays.



Headteacher Challenge

There is a new challenge published on the website on the Covid-19 section each week. Please visit the website for the latest challenge and to submit your entries. We have loved seeing what you are all up to! <https://www.redoaks.org.uk/covidHead.php>

This week's BSL topic is: School Subjects

Let's see if you can learn all of these school subjects. You might see some of the teachers or support staff using these signs in the classroom, see which signs you can spot! ☺

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzz8dMxZhvE&feature=youtu.be>



TD Day dates 2020/21

A full list of school dates for 2020/21 will be sent to parents in September but please add the following TD days to your diary:

1st September 2020
2nd September 2020
21st October 2020

30th April 2021
5th July 2021



End of year reports

End of year reports will be sent home with children who are in school on Monday 20th July. For those not in school, reports and special books (Nursery and Reception) will be available from the office between 10.00am-2.00pm on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July and between 10.00am-12.00pm on 22nd July. Any that are not collected will be kept until September.

Reminders

- If children come to school wearing masks, it is vital that these are used safely. They should only be removed for eating or drinking and should be put in pockets.
- Only children arriving at school by bike or scooter are permitted to bring a rucksack. All other children need a lunch box and water bottle only.
- Do not allow your child to rollerblade to school.
- Inform the school if you have any change of personal details.



Last day of term - Wednesday 22nd July 2020

If your child is in a bubble that usually finishes at 3.00pm, they will be collected at 1.00pm. Those who usually finish at 3.30pm will be collected at 1.30pm. Nursery will be collected at 11.30am at the end of their session.



A Word in Your Ear



The Swindon Hearing Support Team's Newsletter

Issue 9, June 2020

Covid-19: An update from the HST

The Hearing Support Team has continued to work remotely throughout Lockdown and been in regular contact with schools and students. We have been able to support their use of equipment and expect this to continue as more children and young people return to school. As students have begun returning to their settings we have been reassessing our position on seeing students and having face to face contact. We have contacted all settings on our caseloads and the general consensus is that, at this time, most settings are not accepting external visitors unless it is deemed essential.

As always, we continue to work closely with the Audiology department at the Great Western Hospital, particularly with regard to new referrals and New Born Hearing Screening.

Currently as a service we are particularly looking at the needs of children and young people who are involved in transition between settings. We have endeavoured to be in touch with as many receiving settings as possible and are already planning training for September. Whilst regular face to face contact has been more limited due to Lockdown, we have focused on refining and expanding our training packages for schools, and our resources for young people and their families. Work completed has included a new training video for schools on Glue Ear, access to a new website, Facebook page, a Communication booklet and Transition booklet.

We do look forward to seeing children and young people in school again once we are able and to continue our work with children young people and their families.

Stay Safe ☺

Staffing:

Joanne Cooke and Nida Batchelder will be leaving us at the end of August. We wish them both all the best with their new ventures.



We have Claire Tompkins and Sarah Gray joining the team from September 2020.

HST

Hearing Support Team

HSTAdmin@swindon.gov.uk

01793 544021

New Website and Facebook Page!

Our new HST website is now live. The site is still under development and will continue to evolve over the coming months.

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/hearingsupportteam/>

We have also launched a Closed Facebook group for the young people, parents and carers whom we work with. Please search for:

Swindon Hearing Support Team



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/269843547380015/>

Radio Aids and Other Assistive Listening Devices

At some point during the next few weeks we will be collecting all radio aids and other assistive listening devices in so that we can do a full check, audit, clean and security mark of everything.

We will of course look at each case individually and leave equipment until an appropriate time for collection. We will also prioritise equipment that will be used over the summer and make sure that it is available for use. Please contact your Advisory Teacher of the Deaf if you have any questions about this.



Year 6 Transitions

Year 6 pupils may be feeling excited or nervous about starting their new secondary school in September.

Here are some tips on how to prepare for the move from Primary to Secondary schools:

- Look at the website of your new school – what information can you find? Here are some questions that you could search for answers:
 - What time does school start and finish? What time is lunch and break?
 - What subjects will you be studying?
 - Did you know that science lessons could be either biology, chemistry or physics?
 - Do you know what sports you will be learning during PE lessons?
 - Do you know what clubs are available at lunchtime or after school?
 - Are there any virtual tours of the setting?
 - Are there any Transition sessions available (online)?
- Remember everyone in your class is new to the school and are probably feeling the same as you.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions if you miss any information or would like to know more. Bring a pen and notepad to write things down if you or they don't understand something.
- Smile and say hello ☺

The Hearing Support Team will be offering training to all Swindon schools in September so that staff can be more aware how to support deaf and hard of hearing students in their classes. Please contact your Teacher of the Deaf if you have any queries or would like to discuss your hearing needs.



Post 16 Transitions

If you or a young person you know is going to **New College** in September make sure they go to the **Transition Project** which runs from **Monday 17th August to Wednesday 19th 10-3pm**.

The proposed merger of New College and Swindon College is due to be completed at the end of July. The intention is for students to be based on one of the two campuses but with additional benefits of being able to access resources and facilities on both throughout their studies. This merger may be delayed due to the current situation.

Keep an eye on the website to find out when the induction days are as things might be different this year due to Covid-19.

Post 16 Transitions Continued...

If you are staying at your school and going into Sixth Form, make sure that you are able to do the course you want **after** you have got your results. Check when results day is!

If a young person is moving onto higher education this September then they can contact the disability advisor for their preferred university from which they have received a conditional offer. They can request a meeting to talk about the support that needs to be in place by next September. If communication support is required for the meeting then the university should set this up. (NDCS)

Keep in Touch

Our main office is located at:
The Dorcan Academy
St Paul's Drive
Swindon SN3 5DA



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Jenny Wilkins	07727 112245 (text only) jwilkins2@swindon.gov.uk
Joanne Cooke	07727 127439 jcooke3@swindon.gov.uk

Mental Health



If you know a young person who would like some support with their mental health then they can contact www.kooth.com where they can get free safe and anonymous advice online.

There is also a lot of help and advice relating to support for your mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on www.youngminds.org.uk and

<https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/psychological-therapy/what-to-do-if-your-child-needs-mental-health-support/>

<https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/crisis-text-service>

HST Challenges

Lockdown has been so hard for us all, both adults and children. We have had good days and bad days. We thought it would be good to focus on the positives of Lockdown and to share what we have been up to in order to pass the time.



Jo has been busy in her garden and has grown her first crop of potatoes!

Heather challenged herself to run 5k and has now signed up to do 100k over 2 months for charity!



Jill has been looking through her cookery books and experimenting with some new (mostly healthy) recipes.



Jane has made some jam with gooseberries from her garden.

Have you challenged yourself to learn or try something new? Create a new fitness goal? Or re connect with a past hobby?

We would love to hear what you have been up to! You can share these on our post in the Closed Facebook Group or e-mail us if you would prefer:

HSTAdmin@swindon.gov.uk

Summer Reading Challenge 2020



Swindon Library & Information Service have been preparing for the 2020 Summer Reading Challenge. To take part, children (and their parents/guardians) register online and set their own challenge:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk> Select 'Swindon' from the drop down menu to identify your library authority.

Find out more here:

<https://swindonlibraries.wordpress.com/2020/05/28/the-summer-reading-challenge-2020/>

Or If you have any questions regarding the 2020 Summer Reading Challenge, or wish to contribute towards the SRC Blog, please contact: Debbie Jackson (Outreach Librarian, SRC Coordinator): djackson@swindon.gov.uk

Prime Youth Theatre Online workshops for socialising and theatre skills, ages 9-25

Prime Theatre are running a digital programme. This consists of 6 different workshop strands that provide a space for young people to:

- Express themselves creatively
- Socialise with peers from across the UK
- Develop drama skills that they may have been cultivating through GCSE/A-Level or extracurricular drama
- Prepare for a professional arts career

Block A: 15th June-17th July

Block B: 27th July-28th August

You can sign up for either block or both!

Digital Showcase: Friday 28th August 7pm

Find out more here:

<https://www.primetheatre.co.uk/youth-theatre/>

E-mail: info@primetheatre.co.uk

Theatre mobile: 07709 664755



Great Western Hospitals Audiology Update

Audiology continue to operate a reduced service. However, they are more than happy to help with any issues or concerns over the phone.

Their contact details are:

GWH Audiology: 01793 696640

West Swindon Audiology: 01793 889420

E-mail: gwh.audiology.dept@nhs.net



NDCS

The NDCS have created video lessons to help families learn British Sign Language. Have a look at their YouTube channel to find out more. There are regional variations too!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-L7-P7dpmdM>



Face covering exemption cards



Some people can't wear a face mask or covering because of a **disability** or **severe distress**.

We have designed these D.I.Y cards to help deal with public situations that might happen.

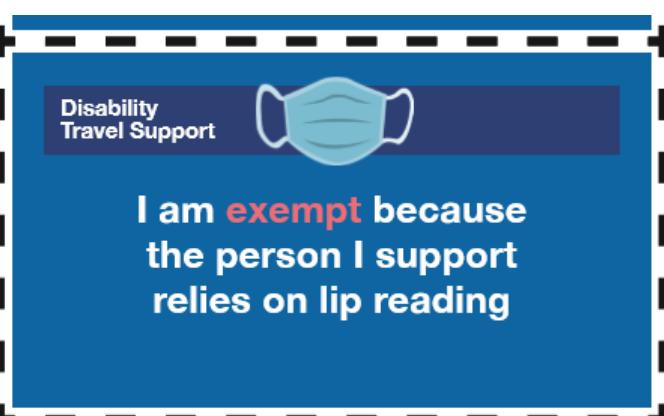
The first side of the card is always the same and some people will be happy using it on its own.

Show it to quickly explain that you have a legal **reasonable excuse** not to wear a face mask.

If you want a non-verbal way to explain more you can double side your card with one of the extra messages.

These can be printed or kept on your phone as photos.

Find out more on our website
keepsafe.org.uk/mask



PRACTICAL PRACTICE

A COURSE DESIGNED TO BUILD ON EXISTING PRACTICE ROUTINES TO GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR PRACTICE AND HAVE MORE FUN WITH MUSIC



£16.50 PER
SESSION

SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 10 PER GROUP, TO BOOK YOUR PLACE OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL SHARON@SWINDONMUSICCOOP.CO.UK OR CALL 01793 781973 OR CONTACT US VIA WWW.SWINDONDONMUSICCOOP.CO.UK. COURSES ARE RUN AT VARIOUS TIMES ACROSS THE SUMMER. COST PER SESSION IS £16.50 FOR 30 MINUTES

FUNDING AVAILABLE CRITERIA DEPENDING

A Pinch of SaLT

A brief update from Children's Speech & Language Therapy Services in Swindon

It's been a while...



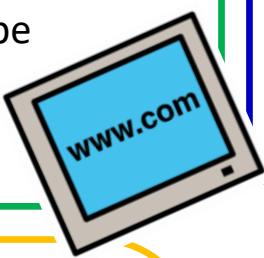
Update on our provision during Covid 19

We have been working hard from home, delivering most services virtually by phone and video calls, and still accepting referrals. We are now starting to resume services:

- If working remotely has been effective with a child or young person (i.e. phone / video calls / resources posted), this may continue.
- If a face to face appointment is necessary, we will try and do this with safe social distancing or by us wearing PPE. This will mean that we are working at a reduced capacity, as we have to make sure all equipment etc. is cleaned thoroughly between visits.
- We are unable to use clinic bases yet (they are being upgraded to a higher infection control standard). We may be able to see children at their preschool/school/home instead.

What's NEW on our Website?

During 'lock down' we developed a new page called '[Families at Home](#)' with social stories, links to new Signalong resources. Click [here](#) to take a look! We have also updated several pages so that there is less information on each page and it should be quicker for you to find things.

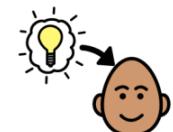


Staffing News:

We were pleased to welcome our new manager, **Liz Wiltshire**, during 'lock down'. **Talya Hawkins** has had a baby boy— congratulations! We are sad to be saying goodbye to **Amy McGregor** and **Kiran Kamal**.

Resources from Swindon

Libraries: Our colleagues in Swindon Library Service have been providing rhyme-times, stories and crafts on their YouTube channel (click [here](#)) as well as a weekly story-time on their Facebook page (click [here](#)). Rhymes and stories are of course fantastic for language development!



Courses: We are currently exploring options for online training courses e.g. Signalong workshops, BRISC & Typical Development. So watch this space! You can still request to be added to course waiting lists; email: gsmith@swindon.gov.uk

To opt in or out of receiving this update, email: swilkins@swindon.gov.uk

the famous

BY MONKHOUSE

Schoolwear Specialists

Parent School Uniform Information

How we are staying Covid-19 secure

We know this time of uncertainty is having a huge impact on all our lives, and we want to let you know what we are doing to help you shop safely for your school uniform.

We have followed government guidance to ensure we are COVID-19 secure allowing you to shop safely.

How to purchase your uniform

Due to social distancing our store capacity has been significantly reduced. Therefore, we will not be able to supply all parents through our stores and we want to prevent large queues.

Shop Early and Shop Safely (Covid-19 Secure)

This will increase our total capacity for back to school.



Visit our website
store.famousbranches.com



New Starters

**BOOK AN APPOINTMENT
FOR A PERSONALISED
SAFE STORE VISIT**

Shop early

To help our total capacity for back to school.

Personalised shopping

1:1 personalised service from our trained and experienced staff.

Right sizing first time

Help with sizing as we know this can be difficult.

Avoid the queues

By booking an appointment you will avoid any queues.

One Stop Shop

Get everything you need in one shop including all accessories for back to school.

Existing Students

ORDER ONLINE

Know your sizes

Most existing parents will have a good idea of sizes making their purchase quick and easy.

Returns

Free extended returns to help with web shopping.

Click & collect

Free click & collect to help with web shopping.

New starter guide

We understand the added pressure on starting a new school so we have developed a **Personalised Safe Booking System** to protect store capacity and prevent large queues.

The Booking System

The best way for new starters to shop safely and get your sizing right first time.

Booking a Store Visit

Shop early

To help our total capacity for back to school.

Personalised shopping

1:1 personalised service from our trained and experienced staff.

Right sizing first time

Help with sizing as we know this can be difficult.

Avoid the queues

By booking an appointment you will avoid any queues.

One Stop Shop

Get everything you need in one shop including all accessories for back to school.

Store Safety

COVID-19 Secure

All of our stores have had a professional Covid-19 secure risk assessment completed which includes:

- Hand Sanitisers
- Till Screens
- Distancing markers and signage
- Staff face masks and gloves where applicable
- Daily deep cleaning
- Hourly cleaning of high touch areas
- Fresh garments for fitting purposes

For further details please read our full safety document on our website.

store.famousbranches.com

3 things we need you to do

1.

Shop early and visit our website for full details and our latest information – store.famousbranches.com

2.

Book your appointment by visiting store.famousbranches.com

3.

Visit our safe store and get everything you need

Existing student guide

Due to social distancing we need your help to protect store capacity for new starters and prevent large queues. Please order through our website 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.

Website Ordering

The safest way to shop for existing parents who know their child sizes.

Shop early

One Stop Shop

Free click & collect

Free extended returns

Online offers and deals

3 things we need you to do

- 1.** Visit our website (store.famousbranches.com) for all our latest information.
- 2.** Register or sign in to get all our latest offers
- 3.** Check your garments for the current sizes so you know what to order

FAQs

I am a parent of a child already at a school and I want to come in store rather than shop on-line. Can I do that?

To be able to service New Starters we have put a booking system in place to keep people safe and offer the best service, so we would advise all existing parents to shop on-line if possible. If this is not possible then we will be operating limited non appointment trading hours at stores, but these will be based on a monitored door approach so you will expect to queue. Please see the contact us section on our website for further details.

How long will I have to return garments if they don't fit when I get them?

We are extending the returns period to the 7th September for all customers to help in these challenging times.

Can I shop on-line if I am a New Starter at a school?

We strongly advise you to come to store, so we can guide you with our expertise through the uniform requirements and make sure you get the right size with growing room. It also gives us the best chance of making sure you get all the compulsory items your child will need to go back to school with. But PLEASE book your appointment as early as possible, help us to help you.

How safe are your shops going to be?

All of our stores have had a professional Covid-19 secure risk assessment completed so we can provide a safe customer and colleague environment. Please help us to help you and stay safe together. We have hand sanitising stations at the entrance and exits of all stores. We are operating a strict booking system or maximum number of people in store at anyone time to stop over crowding. All staff have been given face masks and gloves to wear. We have installed sneeze guards around our counters and have floor markings and guides for you to follow. We would ask that all customers bring their own face masks and respect the 2m distancing guidance. We have fresh garments to try on if required. Hourly cleaning of high frequency touch points and deep cleaning throughout our stores on a daily basis.

When should I shop for my school uniform?

As early as you can, please do not leave until August. These are unprecedented times and we have had to radically change our normal trading model to provide a safe environment for everyone. This will no doubt mean we will face challenges so please shop early to help us help you to make sure your child has uniform on their first day back at school.

Will my local store be open normal trading hours?

No, we will be flexing trading hours by site depending on many factors. Please visit our website for your local store's opening hours and which days are dedicated to appointments only, walk up's and click & collect collection times.

If I leave purchasing my uniform till the end of August will I be able to get into your shop and will there be uniform left?

We strongly advise against this, there are so many uncertainties at this time, please help us to help you and shop early.



Message from Dress My School

DMS Collection

For the time being, we will only have one customer inside our premises at a time. It may take us a little longer than usual to answer the door whilst our staff put on clean disposable gloves and a face shield. We will ask you to use the hand sanitizer provided when you arrive. No fitting service will be available, parents and carers will be required to purchase the garment size(s) they believe they need, and if too big or too small once fitted at home, we will exchange the item(s) when returned, as per the policy published on our website. Returned items will be quarantined for two days before going back into stock. Once the customer has left, we will sanitize all exposed surfaces so that they are safe for the next customer visit.

Home Delivery

We are extremely conscious of the extra expense that this incurs. We only charge the price that we pay our courier to deliver a small order, and often subsidise the full delivery price on larger orders. To help where we can, we will continue to offer **free home delivery when name tags or shoe labels are included with the order**.

We are very much open for business, but as you would expect we take our responsibilities very seriously, and the health and safety of our customers and staff is our highest priority.