



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the announcement made on Monday 22nd February, we are delighted to invite the school community back on the Monday 8th March. As the end of Remote Learning approaches I am thrilled to be writing to you all with plans which explain the full opening of our school. This is an ever-changing picture and obviously these are plans which are in line with the current DfE guidance and will remain unless there are any changes to government guidance after this letter is sent out.

As ever, It goes without saying a **huge thank you** goes out to **you all** for all the supportive messages and conversations I have received since the partial closure of the school...It has been a difficult time for us all but with the continued support of the St Joseph's community spirit we continue to do what is best for our children and community.

To allow for preparations to take place for the full opening the school will have a **Training day on Friday 5th March. There will be NO remote learning or key worker bubble on the training day.** The last day of Remote Learning and feedback will be Thursday 4th March and any work should NOT be uploaded after Wednesday 3rd March.

As I am sure you will understand your child's full detailed **report** which we now send out in the middle of March will not be sent out. This is due to the lack of up to date classroom based teaching and assessment. This report will now be sent out in July (this year only due to exceptional circumstances), allowing teachers and children to settle back into school and to gain an accurate picture of where the children are at by July. **We will continue with parents evening in March and dates will advertised shortly**, where you will be able to discuss your child's progress. Please can we remind you this is an opportunity to discuss your child's learning needs.

There is one last training day for the school year which will be re-scheduled from 4th May to June, the date will be circulated shortly. Please note that 4th May will not be a training day and children will be in school as usual.

I am sure you will all join me in **thanking the teachers and teaching assistants** for their ongoing support and dedication to you and your families throughout Remote Lockdown. Please can I remind

you to only contact your class teacher within school hours and no later than 5pm weekdays and not during weekends or holidays.

We will continue to operate in our 'class bubbles' as we did in term 1 and 2, in which the children will remain until guidance changes. These bubbles will ensure that the same children and adults continue to operate in their groups and they will not be allowed to mix with other 'bubbles' around the school, as much as possible.

The continued safety measures in line with our Covid Risk Assessments (found on our school website) will be adhered to, these include:

- We will be operating whole class bubbles full time.
- Each bubble will be set up in a classroom.
- EYFS and KS1 will have lunch at staggered times in the dining room and KS2 in their classroom.
- Staggered start times to the day for each class bubble.
- There will be 2 entrance and drop off points to the school.
- Children should **not** be picked up by different adults, walking or in cars, this is clearly mixing households, unless you are part of **1 childcare bubble**. If you have formed a childcare bubble and a different adult is picking up your child please **inform the office before pick up time**. This will enable us to inform the teacher.
- The first entrance/ pick up will be at the St Aldhelm's church.
- The second entrance / pick up will be for KS1, EYFS and Family groups, at the main wooden gates.
- Please see the grid below for times of drop off and pick up.
- We should remind you whilst waiting to drop off or pick up please **adhere to social distancing and we would ask that you do not gather in groups at these entrance points. Even though the schools are back the Lockdown is still in place and the Stay at home message is still relevant.**
- **Attendance is mandatory as set out in the DfE guidance** and all children will be expected back in school from the 8th March.
- To reduce numbers please can **one** adult drop off and pick up each child.
- Remember to **wear a mask** when approaching a teacher or member of staff at drop off and pick up.
- The class teacher will lead their group onto the school playground.
- In school, St Scholastica and St Francis bubbles will use the toilets at the end of the corridor in a one way system. Children will leave the classroom through the playground external door and return through the corridor.
- Staggered playtimes in class bubbles.
- Staggered lunchtimes in class bubbles.
- Staggered end of the day pick up at the points explained in the grid below.
- Packed lunches should be brought in an easy to clean container for returning home or disposable bag that will be placed in a bin straight after eating.
- Children will clean their hands before eating snacks and lunch and throughout the day.

- There will be no sporting or creative afterschool clubs or larger group gatherings due to the risk of cross contamination of the class ‘bubbles’, unless we can secure ‘class bubble clubs’, we will be in touch with regards to clubs.
- No contact games in the playground.
- Try to minimize the amount of additional bags and equipment the children bring into school, **a small school bag is allowed, NO large rucksacks are needed.**
- On a PE day the children will be allowed to come into school in their PE kit.
- On a Forest school day the children will be allowed to come into school in the appropriate Forest schools kit.
- Pencil and pens per child provided by school.
- Your child should **not come into school if they are showing any signs or symptoms of a new persistent cough, temperature and or loss of taste or smell.** If we see these at the start of the school day or they develop during the course of the day your child will be sent home. Your child will then need to have a Covid-19 test, if positive, at this point entire bubble, including teachers, MDSA and TAs and any other member of staff and children who have come into contact with this bubble will also be in isolation for 10 days. As you can see this would be wide ranging and would impact not just your child but the whole ‘bubble’ so **please do not send you child into school if you suspect or if they have any of the Covid-19 symptoms.**
- **Please ensure that you are on time for your bubble,** due to the staggered times we have no wriggle room to wait for children who are late as this will make the following bubble times late.
- If you are late and have missed the class teacher you will need to take your child to the wooden gates **after 9.05am to ensure you do not mix with the Cross Key stage Family bubble,** where an office member of staff will let the child in only. Your child will be recorded on the attendance register as late.

The drop off and pick up times are as below.

Start and End of the day March 2021 – Term 4.

Start Date	St Scholastica Church	St Francis Church	St Lawrence Church	St Anthony Front Gate	St Aldhelms Front Gate	Cross Key Stage Families Front Gate
Start time	8.30 – 8.35	8.45 – 8.50	8.55-9.00	9.00-9.05	8.45-8.50	8.50-8.55
Pick up times	2.50-2.55	3.05-3.10	3.15-3.20	3.10-3.15	2.50-2.55	3.00-3.05

Please remember when children are being dropped off on the surrounding roads around school you **must not park on double yellow lines** or in blind spots and bends in the road. This is obviously both dangerous and illegal. This parking can pose a safety risk to pupils and parents that do walk and cycle to school, as well as to other road users and pedestrians. In addition in this current climate it also means where cars are parked on double yellow lines and on the pavement this is reducing the space for people to walk on the pavement and therefore parents and children are unable to socially distance and on occasions having to walk in the road.

Therefore I would like to remind you of the following:

- Vehicles **MUST** always be parked legally so as not to cause an obstruction.
- Please do not park on double yellow lines, this is illegal
- Please do not simply pull alongside the parked cars outside School Gates/ Garage to allow your children to 'jump in/ out'.
- Do **NOT** park on the bend where visibility is poor.

I do understand that parents or carers will sometimes need to drive their children to school, however I would urge where possible for parents/guardians to park in either **the short or long stay car parks**, both of which are free of charge until 9am and are at most a 5 minute walk to the school gate.

Even though we are back at school, we all still have a part to play in keeping each other and the school community safe as not all members of the community have had their vaccination and very few have had both vaccinations. Therefore it is crucial that you follow the points made in this letter.

It remains for me to **congratulate all the children** for their perseverance and hard work through Lockdown and I am immensely proud of the work carried out. Parents I am sure you are as thrilled as we are to have the children back in school.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March.

Warm regards and God bless

Mrs Sue Woods
Headteacher