

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQH
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17 July 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to share with you the revised government guidance in relation to schools returning in the autumn term, together with how we will organise the school in response to this.

CURRENT POSITION

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools restricted their opening to most pupils in March. The NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and there is a greater understanding about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools. As a result, the government has asked schools to plan for all children to return from the start of the new academic year.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. Of course, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why schools will be asked to put in place a range of protective measures.

In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, arrangements will be a little different when the children return to school for the new academic year. This guidance sets out some of the changes and protective measures the government is asking schools to put in place and what parents, carers and children will need to do to help ensure schools are as safe as possible for everyone.

SEPTEMBER OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

All Trafford school have been given an extra staff training day in order to prepare for the full reopening of school. Please note the revised dates.

- Tuesday 1 September: staff training
- Wednesday 2 September: staff training
- Thursday 3 September: Year 1-6 return at allotted time and entrance point
- Friday 4 September: Years 1-6 with Reception children 10am-2pm at allotted time and entrance point

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

It is vital that children return to school for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).



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Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. See the [guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) for the current advice.

Some pupils no longer required to shield but those who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).

Where children are not able to attend school because parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised.

If you have concerns about your child returning to school because you consider they may have other risk factors, you should discuss this with the headteacher or deputy headteachers as soon as possible.

Many families will want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As ever, parents should plan their holidays within school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time.

Ultimately, local authorities and schools have a range of [legal powers to enforce attendance](#) if a child misses school without a valid reason.

HOW EVERYONE CAN HELP MAKE SCHOOLS AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE

There is a health and safety risk assessment in place as part of our planning for the autumn term and the return of all pupils.

Parents and carers can support this by:

- ensuring that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, does not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school
- engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to [get a test](#) and you should inform the school of the results of that test

Alongside this, the government is asking schools to ensure they are:

- managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked by the school to self-isolate for 14 days (based on advice from local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus



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- ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- minimising contact and maintaining distance. As far as possible, children will stay within specified separate groups (or bubbles), and through maintaining distance between individuals. Bubbles will be whole class in the main with year group bubbles in the hall at lunchtime and outside. Please note however that bubbles will not be on mixed tables and children will be seated with their class bubble. Each class bubble will be in their own zone on the playground. The government's guidance to schools recognises that younger children may not be able to maintain social distancing so it is likely that for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older children, it will be on distancing.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING SCHOOL

We will be continuing to stagger start and finish times to help keep groups apart on the way to and from school, and as they arrive and leave the premises. In line with government guidance, gathering at the school gates or coming onto the site without an appointment is not permitted so we ask for parents' ongoing co-operation with this. Please continue to use the helpdesk or admin email for important messages.

Staggering year groups allows us to welcome all of our children back to school safely. We have endeavoured to make the spread of the staggered time a maximum of 40 minutes to support working parents. We appreciate by doing this some families may have siblings who have the same start time; to support with this, we have ensured that there is a ten minute window of time for each class so that parents are able to take children to two different gates if necessary. We appreciate your punctuality and support with this and we will look to review the timings in the future in line with updated government guidelines.

Class/ Bubble information can be found below:

	Start/finish	Entrance/Exit	Teacher
Rec LS	8:40/3:10	Orchard Rd Staff	Miss Sheppard
Rec MH	8:40/3:10	Orchard Rd Pedestrian	Miss Hollins
Rec LT	8:40/3:10	Golf Ginnet	Miss Turnbull
Y1 AM	8:50/3:20	Orchard Rd Staff	Mr McCann
Y1 LH	8:50/3:20	Orchard Rd Pedestrian	Miss Hutton
Y1 OW/CG	8:50/3:20	Golf Ginnet	Mrs Wormall/ Mrs Gerrard
Y2 SN	9:00/3:30	Orchard Rd Staff	Mr Nicholls



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Y2 AB/CR	9:00/3:30	Orchard Rd Pedestrian	Mrs Burke/C Mrs Robinson
Y2 LC	9:00/3:30	Golf Ginnel	Miss Campbell
Y3 DM	8:40/3:10	Osborne Rd Car park gate	Mrs McDuff
Y3 ES	8:40/3:10	Balmoral gate	Mrs Slater
Y3 CN/JJ	8:40/3:10	Office gate	Mrs Needham/ Mrs Jennings
Y4 FJ	8:50/3:20	Osborne Rd Car park gate	Miss Jamieson
Y4 NS	8:50/3:20	Balmoral gate	Mrs Sheldon
Y4 HC/CS	8:50/3:20	Office gate	Mrs Carr/ Mrs Sutton
Y5 SK	9:00/3:30	Osborne Rd Car park gate	Mrs Kirk
Y5 CL	9:00/3:30	Balmoral gate	Mrs Luckham
Y5 JK	9:00/3:30	Office gate	Mrs Kerigan
Y6 DH	9:10/3:40	Osborne Rd Car park gate	Mrs Hobday
Y6 HC	9:10/3:40	Balmoral gate	Miss Coyle
Y6 DF	9:10/3:40	Office gate	Mr Fowler

We will be encouraging families to walk to school following the launch of our Walk to School Challenge earlier in the year. Our annual week-long celebration of the journey to school will take place during Walk to School Week w/c 5 October 2020.

CURRICULUM AND OTHER AREAS

CURRICULUM

We will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects. There may need to be changes to some subjects - such as PE and music - to ensure they can be delivered as safely as possible. We acknowledge that although we have continued to provide education remotely during the outbreak that there may be gaps in



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children's learning. Plans are already in place to address any potential gaps and deliver a structured catch up programme where required.

We have also made plans for the provision of remote education to continue where needed.

ASSESSMENT

The government recognise that children will have missed a critical period of their learning due to lockdown in the 2019 to 2020 academic year and that it is vital to gain a better understanding of the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on children nationally and give support to schools that need it the most. Therefore, the government is planning on the basis that statutory primary assessments (for those going into year 6 in September) will take place in summer 2021.

BEHAVIOUR

We have updated our behaviour policy to reflect any new rules or approaches that are needed from the autumn term.

UNIFORM

We will return to our usual uniform policy in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

SCHOOL FOOD

School kitchens will be fully open from the start of the autumn term, and we will provide free school meals and universal infant free school meals as usual for those who are eligible. Please contact the office if you think that your child is newly eligible for free school meals.

Please let the office know if you would like your child to receive a hot meal if they are currently on sandwiches.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We can confirm that The Sunshine Club will operate before and after school. Please email sunshine@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk to contact the club regarding a booking.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

As we have needed to use both halls for the Sunshine club, extra-curricular clubs will not operate for the first half term. This will be reviewed before we break for October half term.



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PROCESS IN THE EVENT OF OUTBREAKS

If the school experiences an outbreak, either because we have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff in the setting within 14 days, or if we see an increase in pupil or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will need to contact the local health protection team. This team will advise if additional action is required, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

Where an outbreak is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school, if necessary.

If our local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread. The government will be involved in decisions and individual schools will be supported accordingly and will follow the health advice.

In all cases, where groups of pupils need to self-isolate or where a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed we will continue to support the children's education remotely. This guidance will be reviewed and amended as it emerges.

WELLBEING

We understand that the return to school may cause some anxieties for children and that they may have experienced losses, low mood and confusion during their time away. Our well-established pastoral support will continue along with a wellbeing focus in every classroom. Staff have received CPD on: a) Winston's Wish bereavement training; b) childhood bereavement: an introduction and what you can do to help; c) loss and grief refresher; d) back to school after lockdown. Furthermore, our PSHE programme contains units on supporting children's emotional health. Please let us know of any specific worries or concerns and we will work together on the best route for your child.

All of the above guidance is subject to change in line with government guidance. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the child back to school. Thank you for all of your support at this time. It is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Harrop

Headteacher

