



# Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas' Catholic Primary School

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22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

**CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 19**

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL PARENTS**

## September Whole School Opening

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July the government published its plan for all schools to reopen in September. Broadly speaking its aim was twofold; to keep the bubble culture in place and practise social distancing wherever possible and to maintain a high profile cleaning regime throughout the days of our opening. These aims have required an enormous amount of detailed planning in this current phase of wider opening and the principles of risk assessment now have to adapt to the larger numbers of a full roll. I should, therefore, inform you that the approach the school has taken in June will be similar in September with staggered starts and changes to lunchtimes, entrances and exits etc.

Our principal aim has be to implement a **catch up** programme of learning swiftly and this will result in a modified curriculum in the Autumn term with a very strong focus on phonics, reading, writing and mathematics for all year groups. We will really need to gain a clear understanding where the children are in terms of progress and we will do this early on with assessment to inform the staff on gaps in the pupils' learning. To arrest a decline in children's progress school must prioritise these core subjects for additional teaching support. These areas of study are so key to the wider curriculum, they will command a significant portion of the timetable. Naturally, there will be a focus on physical education and Religious Education too. The government guidance states that all schools should have the full national curriculum provision in place by the summer term of 2021.

### How will our school be organised from September 2020?

To highlight the changes to school organisation, we have classified the following areas from government guidance which will apply to our school:

<b>New School Year Organisation</b>	Academic Year 2020 2021
<b>Classrooms organised in bubbles</b>	Every class will be described as being grouped in a <b>bubble</b> to minimise the effects of cross contamination and reduce the risk of transmission in school. Children will remain in these bubbles as far as possible with the same teacher. This initiative has been in place since 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020 and the majority of the staff have operated this system.

	<p>The school will be divided into five pods which cluster bubbles and facilities such as the toilets</p> <p>Pod 1 Nursery</p> <p>Pod 2 Reception and Year 1</p> <p>Pod 3 Y5F Y2C Y3/4CI Y3Su</p> <p>Pod 4 Y6M Y5/6H Y4S Y2G</p> <p>Pod 5 Admin Office Areas</p> <p>Each pod is sealed off and there are designated entry points and signage in the school</p>		
<b>Staggered start and finish times</b>	<p>Class bubbles will be allocated a start and finish time which may be staggered to minimise large groups of parents congregating at variety of entrance and exit points.</p> <p><b>Pod 1 Nursery and Year 2 children</b> Nursery entrance and exit from rear gate onto carpark</p> <p>Pod 2 Reception and Year 1 classes onto rear playground and through <b>field</b> gate opposite St John's School</p> <p>Pod 3 and Pod 4 The usual side gate (by the bike sheds) which everybody came through prior to closure.</p>		
<b>Pod 1 Nursery &amp;Y2</b>	<b>Pod 2</b>	<b>Pod 3</b>	<b>Pod 4</b>
<b>Nursery</b> 8.45 am/3.15am	8.40/2.40 <b>Rec/D</b>	8.40/2.40 <b>Y5F</b>	8.40/2.40 <b>Y5/6H</b>
-	8.50/2.50 <b>Rec/Y1 P</b>	8.50/2.50 <b>Y3 S</b>	8.50/2.50 <b>Y6M</b>
-	9.00/3.00 <b>Y1T</b>	9.00/3.00 <b>Y3/4C</b>	9.00/3.00 <b>Y4S</b>
8.55/2.55 <b>Y2C</b> 8.55/2.55 <b>Y2G</b> Nursery gate			
<b>Exit /Entry Nursery &amp;Y2</b> from Nursery Rear Gate (Carpark) <b>Y2</b> from rear green gate	Entry /Exit  Field Gate (back of St John's School)	Entry / Exit  Normal side gate onto playground	Entry / Exit Normal side gate onto playground
<b>Uniform</b>	Children will be permitted to wear school uniform or school PE kit for the first half term It would be strongly advisable for them to wear trainer shoes as there will be no opportunity to change clothes for games		
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>Each bubble will have one teacher who will stay with the children Teaching Assistants will work with smaller groups <b>Staff will be expected</b> to social distance (2m) from each other and temporary staff facilities are located around the school. Staff will be restricted to areas within the pod school and will arrive and depart from different entrance and exit points. This replicates our approach this term . See the diagram in the parents' booklet</p> <p>Staff will have due regard to social distance guidance and are encouraged to avoid close face to face contact with pupils</p>		
<b>Personal Belongings</b>	Pupils will <b>not</b> be able to bring a range of possessions to school such as stationery, mobile phones. A minimalist approach must be adopted and only		

	packed lunch and a water bottle could be expected to be brought if a child was not having school dinners. School will provide stationery and this will be personalised to the children at school. We ask you to supply a water bottle for your child with their name on it.
<b>Lunchtimes</b>	One of the greatest challenges our school has is the size of the hall in relation to the number of pupils on roll and the routines which are necessary to seat large numbers. The use of the hall for meals compromises the risk management with regard to social distancing and so will be decommissioned. The school will continue to provide mobile meals to classrooms ( by Sefton catering ) or children may opt to bring a packed lunch. Those entitled to Free School meals or all Infants receiving meals Universal Meals Grant will access this provision with no charge.
<b>Collective Worship Assemblies, Mass</b>	Unfortunately, the school is not permitted to host/organise collective worship or celebrate Mass in the school hall but a smaller version of worship can be arranged in classrooms. Sadly, we cannot invite you in yet to participate in this worship
<b>Lunchtimes Grab Bags</b>	Cold offer of sandwich wrap plus fruit jelly and snacks for first two weeks. Thereafter a warm 'takeaway' option will be offered leading up to half term. We proposed to attempt to operate a full range of options after half term. Bare with us on this as this will be some undertaking.
<b>Hygiene Regime</b>	The caretaker is present throughout the school day and we have one additional cleaner in our team . They work in designated areas of the school planned from 22/06/20 The caretaker will continually clean the high touch areas such as door handles etc (continuing this practice since 22 <sup>nd</sup> June ).  The children will frequently access hand sanitiser on entry into school and between changes of activities from outdoors to indoors. New dispensers have been installed around the school.
<b>Home School Communication</b>  <b>A Cashless System for September</b>	We have minimised the necessity to have face to face contact with the school office staff as we would prefer you to email or telephone any concerns. We are also introducing a cashless system for the collection of monies such as dinner money.  The entrance foyer has been closed over recent weeks in the interests of social distancing and the main Oxford Road door will be locked. We ask that you only ask for face to face contact with office staff in the case of an emergency. Contact will be made by telephone and email in the first instance.
<b>School Trips</b>	<u>There will be <b>no residential trips</b> next year as directed in government guidance</u> Other trips will be based in our locality of Sefton during the next academic year.
<b>Extra- Curricular Clubs</b>	Extra-curricular clubs will recommence in the Autumn term but there are no plans for local or regional sporting competitions due to ongoing concerns.
<b>Test and Trace</b>	If staff or children display symptoms of COVID-19, they must remain at home and a test booked. While the results of testing are awaited, the bubble can remain in school. If the result is negative, the child or staff member can return to school straight away. If the test is positive, the bubble will need to remain at home for 14 days.
<b>Curriculum assessments</b>	Year 6 SATs will take place in May 2021 as usual. Year 1 will complete their phonics screening check in June 2021. Year 2 SATs will inform end of year teacher assessments and the possibility of a Year 2 phonics check is currently being discussed. Year 4 will complete a multiplication tables check in June 2021. The government currently believe that it is important that these assessments continue so that they gain an understanding of the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on this cohort of pupils nationally.

<b>Modifications to Curriculum</b>	There will be no collective worships in the hall nor will there be any singing activities given the concerns with the transmission of the virus  Games equipment will be cleaned immediately after use.  Curriculum will focus on a catch up of core skills of reading, writing and mathematics . Sport and outdoor activity will be strongly promoted. Please see the parents' booklet.
<b>Attendance</b>	Attendance regulations have come back into force and the school will be required to follow legislation in relation to monitoring unauthorised attendance as well as not granting holiday leave in term time.
<b>Vouchers Edenred</b>	The school is working with Edenred to provide Free School Meals vouchers for entitled families over the summer holidays. You have received contact from our school office in this matter some time ago

We have produced an updated parents' booklet with illustrations and plans so that you are clear how school routines have changed

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to the staff who have continued to put themselves 'on the frontline' from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 22<sup>nd</sup> July. I would like to thank them for their courage, constitution and character in putting our school children and community first. I would like to thank them sincerely for their service over such a difficult time and I would like to thank our governing body for their support and guidance at the critical time around reopening.

A number of staff have gone over and above the call of duty in many ways such as delivering free meals to the door of those entitled, working rota systems, supporting the school office, overlooking the traditional half term and Easter break times. The calls, emails and text messages in the months of April and May would go on late into the night Coach Rose has attended throughout this time with boundless energy, enthusiasm for keeping our children fit and healthy with all sports. Children here and I gather, at home, have shown a great deal of resilience and we look forward to getting the school 'up and running' again. We know that the pandemic is far from over and this is why we have these arrangements. I thank you in anticipation of your co-operation and understanding for the September re-start.

I wish our Year Six well as they begin secondary education and it was so good to see so many of them yesterday. Good luck and best wishes to their families, some of whom finish a long association with the school. We welcome back Miss Plunkett after maternity leave and say farewell to Mrs McAnespy.

Stay safe and keep well with your families. On behalf of the whole school community, I wish you and your families a happy and restful summer break and we will see you on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September!

Yours sincerely,



Kieran A Loftus Headteacher