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Dear Parents,

I hope you are well wherever you are and please remember that you are a very important part of our community regardless of whether we are seeing you regularly or you are at home. Last week we welcomed 225 pupils into school; their behaviour and attitudes to work is exceptionally high and they are a joy to see. We eagerly anticipate the return of all pupils in September and we are working hard to plan for this now.

September – Full Opening of Schools

As you may have seen in the media, the Government has issued guidance for the full opening of schools at the start of the autumn term in September:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools

The guidance for primary schools is very much based around the assumption that by September the number of infections in the community will be very low, therefore the chance of anyone in school having the virus is also very low and the risk of others being infected is much lower than has been the case. The overriding principle therefore is to minimise the number and length of contacts (rather than eliminating them) while allowing schools to operate at full capacity and with as normal a curriculum and timetable as possible.

The guidance recognises that initially class bubbles would operate as much as possible whilst giving flexibility of staff moving between bubbles and groups mixing together for a limited number of activities, including specialist teaching, wrap around care and in outdoor spaces. All staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of our curriculum. We will welcome back our specialist sports coaches. It is recommended that pupils limit what they bring into school to essential items only. Pupils can take books and work home so we will be sending home reading books and homework.

Within the bubbles the emphasis will be on hygiene rather than formal social distancing between pupils. Within school, year group zones will be kept apart as far as possible and schools have been asked to consider the feasibility of staggering the start and end of the school day and lunch times etc. Some of our year groups will have their lunch in their classrooms to ensure the lunch time doesn't stretch for too long.

Nationally, there has been some talk of narrowing the curriculum for pupils, at St Aloysius our focus will be on an ambitious curriculum with catch up intervention where appropriate. We will make small adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible. This will include seating pupils side by side and facing forwards. We will avoid large gatherings such as assemblies and collective worship with more than one year group zone. The usual rules for school attendance will again apply. The school will resume breakfast and after school club provision from the start of the autumn term.

Pupils will be required to return to school in full uniform. Our uniform provider for specific items continues to be JK Clothing. The shop is now open and also has an online facility. They have informed us that stock is not due to arrive until early August, as the order was held up due to factory shutdowns because of COVID19. Any orders they receive prior to receipt of the delivery will be held and given priority as soon as the stock arrives.

The costs of the uniform at JK clothing are:

- Badged Polo Shirt £8.00
- Cardigan/Jumper (all sizes) £16.00
- Tank Top £15.00
- Ties £5.00

Please note all children from Rec - Y6 must wear black shoes, no trainers.

PE Kit:

- PE Top £8.00
- Plain navy shorts (no logos)
- Trainers (infants may use plimsolls or trainers, but junior children must wear trainers)

We are happy to support any family who requires financial support with the cost of the uniform. Please contact the school via email and we will make arrangements with you.

Classes for next year

The following list indicates who your child's teacher will be in September.

Nursery A (Monday-Wednesday)	Mrs McDermott
Nursery B (Wednesday- Friday)	Mrs James
Reception	Miss Cunningham and Mrs Backhurst

Current class		New class
Rec CC	moving to	Y1RH Mr Hunter
Rec MB	moving to	Y1PS Mrs Storey
Y1VW	moving to	Y2NF Miss Fawcett
Y1RH	moving to	Y2VB/AC Mrs Balfour and Mrs Cawthorn
Y2PS	moving to	Y3DC Mrs Cockburn
Y2NF	moving to	Y3KD Mrs Dow
Y3DC	moving to	Y4CF/ CG Mrs Cathlin Fenwick and Mrs Guy
Y3KD	moving to	Y4CR Miss Rowe
Y4EC	moving to	Y5VW Mrs Woodhouse
Y4CR	moving to	Y5BC Miss Carabine

In year 6 we will have three teachers so we are splitting the children into three groups throughout the day. Miss Doughty, Miss Reddington and Mr Haley will be the three teachers. Please see class lists attached.

Mrs Balfour and Mrs Cawthorn will work for three days each and will share the teaching in their Y2 class. Mrs Cathlin Fenwick and Mrs Guy will do the same in Y4. Mrs Woodhouse will move to working in school five days a week in Y5. Mrs Carter will be on maternity leave.

I appreciate that we have had the most unusual time and we have not been able to arrange transition activities but we will be aware of this in our planning and staff are currently engaged in hand over activities. New staff will know the classes who are joining them, I know our children will adapt quickly to a new September routine and classes.

Mrs Godfrey has been asked to support a local school, SS Peter and Paul, South Shields for two days a week until Christmas as part of our school to school support work. Miss Fenwick will provide teaching across the school to support groups of pupils.

School Lunches

Please be advised that the cost of a school lunch for children in Year 3 - Year 6 will remain the same in September (£11.00 per week). There is no charge for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Grass Roots Sports Week (Junior Site)

Monday 20th July – Friday 24th July 10am – 3pm (£42 for the week)

This year Grass Roots will be running a modified sports week due to the challenges of COVID-19.

They will endeavour to keep children as active and happy as possible, whilst following government guidelines released on 1st July. There will be a much greater emphasis on good hygiene practices and social distancing. The week will still be full of classic sports games, including bike days, joke breaks, tug of war and traditional sports. The safety of your child is the priority; closely followed by how much active fun they can have across the week.

Children will be separated into bubbles; they will remain in these bubbles for the duration of the course. The course will be taken by qualified coaches/teachers. All coaching staff have been through a recent police clearance (DBS).

Children should be between the ages of 5 (4 is fine if in reception) and 11 (Yr 6)

To book this course please visit: www.grassrootssports.co.uk Please note - places are very limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.

And finally ...

Over the last few months our lives have felt so different and it will be a joy to see all pupils returning in September. There will be challenges but I know our community will overcome these and thrive. Over the coming weeks we will send you our revised risk assessments and pupil procedures so that you are fully aware of how we plan to operate.

Nick Conway