



ST PAULINUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Fully Reopening from Monday 8th March

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils on **8th March**. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back all of our pupils for face-to-face education. The following letter should be read carefully to remind you of the safety measures put in place to support the full opening of school. I apologize that it is longer than usual letters but we want you to have all the information at hand. If a relative or childminder is dropping off children or collecting children please make them aware of the updated arrangements.

Attendance

From 8 March, school attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice.

Please make the school aware if your child falls under this category.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, we will continue to provide remote learning activities based on what is being taught in class.

Pupil Illness

IF IN DOUBT DO NOT SEND. PLEASE DO NOT DOSE YOUR CHILD UP WITH CALPOL AND SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. We therefore need you to be contactable at all times. Your child will be kept in isolation with a member of staff while we wait for your arrival – you may drive into the school car park and report to the school office. If coronavirus is suspected, the staff member will be wearing a disposable apron, gloves and mask and collection will be from the after school club room. You must then follow Public Health England advice and book a test and isolate the family household. We want your children at school but we cannot allow them to be here if they are not well enough to be here, please support us with this going forward.

Working together to be the best we can

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Geaves Head of School: Mrs R Bircham

St Paulinus Catholic Primary School, The Avenue, Guisborough, Redcar and Cleveland, TS14 8DN

Tel: 01287 637978 | Email: enquiries@stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk | Website: stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk

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Our Safety Measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our pupils can return to school safely. We'll be taking the following protective measures to keep everyone safe:

1. Procedures for going to and from school

- Staggered drop off and pick up times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave. **We will send a separate email confirming your child's start and finish times.** It is imperative that you are punctual. Please do not arrive early as this will not help with social distancing measures.
- A reminder that gathering at the school gate and actually coming into the school without an appointment is not allowed. Please phone or email the school with messages.
- The one way system still operates through the school yard. Please do not drop children at the gate and walk back onto The Avenue.
- Only 1 adult is permitted to drop off or collect and they must wear a face covering.
- The Voyager Car park is currently closed please park considerately for our neighbours. No family cars are permitted in the school car park unless a prior arrangement has been made.

2. Rules on what pupils can take to and from school

- Limiting the amount of equipment they bring to school to essentials like lunch boxes, bags, books and stationary. Please can children in KS2 bring a pencil case into school with coloured pens and pencils if they have them. These will stay in school on their tables. **ALL BAGS SHOULD BE SMALL AS THEY WILL BE PLACED BY/UNDER SCHOOL DESKS**, (some bags look big enough for a week's holiday, if you can remember them).
- Avoiding unnecessary sharing of items. No items can be shared in school readily. We will provide children with pens and pencils to work with.
- On P.E. days children should arrive at school ready in their P.E. kit. A reminder of P.E. days will be sent out in a separate email.

3. Organisation of Pupils at school.

- Children will be in class bubbles. They will not mix with other class bubbles. They will have staggered break and lunch times and play in a designated area of the outside still in their class bubble.
- In the first four weeks until Easter our priority will be reconnecting the children to classroom routines. We will also be working on our new mental health and wellbeing scheme to make sure children are ready to start learning again at school.
- One-way systems continue in school.

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- Children will wear school uniform or PE kit every day.
- We will continue to take precautions in line with DFE guidance such as:
 - ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual.
 - 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 where possible.
 - maximizing ventilation in classrooms by opening doors and windows where appropriate.

4. Organisation of Adults within School

For the majority of the time a distinct group of adults will support each 'bubble'. Adults will endeavor to maintain a 2 metre distance from each other, and from the children as the adults are statistically at higher risk. Adults will now wear face coverings and/or visors in all communal areas. Staff may also wear visors in classrooms. Staff are now taking twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests and reporting their results to the school and DFE.

5. Breakfast and After school clubs.

Breakfast and After School club will run with booked places only to avoid children coming and going and to ensure consistent staffing. 'Ad hoc' places will not be available for the time being and parents must commit to set days in any given week in advance. There is a limit on the number of places available and all who require a place will be accommodated wherever possible. As we are not doing activity clubs in the spring term we will have more spaces to spread these children out and wherever possible we will try to keep them with children from their own 'bubble' – i.e. year group – with the same set of staff. However, this cannot be guaranteed and children are likely to mix with a limited number of children outside their 'bubble' in these clubs and parents should be aware that this will heighten the risk. We have made the decision that this was justifiable given that the alternative is no provision at all for working parents. It is likely that the After school club and Breakfast Club will be based in the hall until further notice. Access to this will therefore be through the hall door with all children and adults following the one way system through the yard and using the exit on Staindale (good for the step count).

6. School Lunches

We intend to have a full school offer for hot lunches again from the 8th March provided by Mellors with a return to the normal payment arrangements via ParentPay. If parents are unsure about whether they need to pay or not they should contact their school office. An amended menu will be in place with more limited choice of dishes – basically meat or vegetarian, with no open salads or bread. To aid with distancing measures

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lunches being eaten in classrooms will occur regularly. Children will always have the chance to wash their hands before eating.

Behaviour.

An addendum to our behaviour policy was formulated in June 2020 when the first groups of children returned to school and still remains in place. In the addendum we have had to change some of our expectations around pupils' behaviour and make these clear to all. In these times of heightened risk to our health, it is important that children and staff are aware that unhygienic behaviour is taken very seriously. Our Golden rules remain unchanged and children should strive to do their best in all that they do. We are returning to school and we will help the children behave in a way that helps them to be ready to learn.

Availability of water on site.

All pupils should have their own water bottle that is untouched by other children or staff. Water is available in school to refill children's own water bottles. Water bottles will return home to be washed every night.

Risk Assessment and Other Information

Our latest Risk Assessment has now been updated and will be available on the school website by the end of the week.

In summary the main points are:

- ✓ Staggered start and finish times.
- ✓ Only 1 adult permitted at drop off and collection.
- ✓ 'One way' system on the yard.
- ✓ Communication by phone or email, no visitors to school office unless by appointment.
- ✓ Increased cleaning regimes.
- ✓ Hand sanitisation installed in classes (children can bring in their own small bottle)
- ✓ Children organised in class bubbles.
- ✓ Limited movement around the school.
- ✓ No whole school or large group gatherings.
- ✓ Staggered breaks and lunch times.
- ✓ Hot meals return.

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Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with the school office to speak with Mrs Bircham or myself.

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

If you have any questions then please get in touch with the school by emailing enquiries@stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk or by phoning 01287 637978.

Kindest regards,

Mr Geaves
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Bircham
Head of School

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