



ST ALPHONSUS'
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

March 8th – Whole School Opening

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all the continued support you have given throughout the last year. The whole school community has faced challenges that we could never have imagined. As a school family we have remained strong, we have supported each other, we have shared and celebrated achievements and we will continue to do so in the months ahead. I would like to thank you for your continued support, determination and resilience with home schooling. Remote learning and live lessons have provided a new form of learning for our children but it has also required the development of new skills for many. We know how difficult it has been to manage home-schooling with family/work commitments. We would also like to thank our pupils. The challenge of being away from friends and having to develop skills to enable them to access remote learning has not gone unnoticed. Without your continued help and support St. Alphonsus' would not be the school it is.

We are delighted to confirm that the Government is allowing schools to reopen fully on March 8 and we look forward to welcoming back our pupils. The school has not been the same without them all.

Thankfully our children adapted really well to the new measures that were put in place in the autumn term. This helped us to effectively manage the risks that remained. These measures will continue to be applied for at least the coming weeks. This letter is a reminder of some of the changes and protective measures we have in place and what you will need to continue to do to help ensure we can be as safe as possible for everyone.

Please read the following information carefully so that you understand the measures and expectations in place to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff.

Attendance

From Monday March 8, school attendance will be mandatory. This means that the legal duty on parents of children of compulsory school age will apply. It is vital that children return to school as quickly as possible for their educational progress, wellbeing and wider development.

Where shielding advice remains in place for your child, it is important that you communicate this information to Mrs Pickthall in the school office, so we can ensure remote learning continues. We would ask that you forward a copy of your child's shielding letter, evidence from your child's doctor or other medical professional, to support this requirement. The same support may be considered where a child is self-isolating with symptoms.

Learning, serving, loving with Christ

Headteacher: Miss A McCann

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Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust



It is the expectation that parents will avoid a holiday in term-time as this will cause further disruption to their child's education. Holidays in term-time must be in writing to the Head Teacher using the appropriate form and providing **details of the destination** to be visited. A request will only be agreed where it is satisfied there is an exceptional circumstance that is in accordance with the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust Policy. Legal powers to enforce attendance will be used where a child misses school without a valid reason and the absence is unauthorised.

Precautions

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

You must not send your child to school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or if you have someone in your household who does. We would ask parents and carers to support us by 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 us of the results of that test.

Procedures for return to school March 2021

School Arrival and Pick up Arrangements

Parents and pupils must observe social distancing measures from other groups when arriving at school.

When dropping off children, **one parent only** should accompany the child to the drop off point inside the entry gate and leave the child to walk to their designated classroom door. Parents are to wave goodbye from this point and not enter the playground. No parents are to come into school. Members of staff will be visible around the perimeter of the school to ensure children are guided safely to classroom entry points and adhere to social distancing rules.

Drop off times:

- Years 5 and 6 - 8:45am
- Years 3 and 4 - 8:50am
- Years 1 and 2 - 8:55am
- Reception 9:00am
- Nursery: Morning session 8:15am-11:15am
Afternoon session 12:00pm-3:00pm



When collecting children, a one way system will be in place to ensure safety. Only **one parent/adult** should collect their child. If at all possible, other siblings should not attend at drop off and pick up times. If there is absolutely no alternative, then they must remain beside their parents. Toddlers should remain in their pushchairs and not be allowed to roam. Any parent arriving late should ring the school office and not enter the school grounds. Parents will be required to queue **2 metres** apart outside classroom areas whilst awaiting for your child to come to you before continuing on the one way route out of school. Members of staff will again be visible to guide and ensure social distancing rules are applied. Parents of Key Stage 2 children walking to or from school alone should inform school with their arrangements. Parents should be confident that their child will adhere to social distancing guidelines and not gather with friends outside school. **Parents must clear the school site promptly and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Parents MUST NOT gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the school building without pre-arranged consent or appointments.**

We ask that all adults wear masks whilst on the school premises.

Collection times:

- Years 5 and 6 - 2:45pm
- Years 3 and 4 - 2:50pm
- Years 1 and 2 - 2:55pm
- Reception: 3:00pm

Please try to ensure you stick to your allocated times. Parents will not be able to congregate in the main entrance if arriving early or during bad weather.

Sanitising and Hygiene

All pupils and visitors will sanitise their hands when they enter/ leave the school building. Pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands with antibacterial soap regularly throughout the day.

Breakfast Club arrangements will continue for those children who are already part of this group, in the main hall, from 8 March.

Movement around the school site

A one-way system will be in operation around the school site to limit contact between groups. Some areas of school will be out of bounds to children, such as the school library and office areas. Movement around school will be minimised for each bubble between their classroom area, designated toilets and direct access to outside areas from each classroom for playtimes and lunchtimes. Children will be encouraged to social distance where possible.

Class Arrangements

Each class will remain as a 'bubble'. Classrooms will continue to be set out slightly differently with pupils being seated in rows if age appropriate. Pupils will keep their water bottle at their table and will be provided with all the resources needed to reduce the need to move around the classroom. Please do not send large school bags into school. School book bags are allowed as they can be stored in a large box.



PE

PE kits should be brought into school on your child's allocated day and taken home to be washed the same day. PE days for each year group are shown below. PE will take place outside as much as possible so please ensure that your child has a kit with blue/ black shorts, white/house colour t-shirt with a black/blue track suit and trainers/plimsolls suitable for going outside. Spare PE kits will not be available in school. Football kits are not allowed for PE.

PE Days: Nursery: Monday and Friday
Reception: Tuesday and Thursday
Year 1: Monday and Friday
Year 2: Monday and Thursday
Year 3: Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 4: Tuesday and Friday
Year 5: Wednesday and Thursday
Year 6: Wednesday and Thursday

Uniform and Equipment

We expect that all pupils will wear school uniform including black shoes. Items of uniform can be ordered from Lollipops, Norfolk Place, Berwick Hills. No personal items should be brought to school other than a coat or water bottle. Each child will be provided with their own pack of equipment in a clearly labelled zip lock bag which will remain on your child's allocated table. Children should not bring in any of their own equipment from home. Jewellery or **earrings**, including stud earrings / retainers, are not allowed as part of the schools policy and the Local Management Board views certain modes of dress as inappropriate. This would include **severe shaven hair**, shaved patterns, **dyed hair** or other outlandish styles. We aim for smartness and excellence and visitors often comment on how smart our pupils are.

Catering Arrangements

The school kitchen is fully operating and provision for all pupils requiring meals is in place.

Behaviour Policy

Amendments that needed to be made to the school behaviour policy in line with reducing the risk of infection have been sanctioned through a policy addendum which can be found on the school website.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will resume shortly. Communication will be sent out to parents.

Curriculum

We will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects in order to support the needs of our pupils and address the gaps as a result of the pandemic. We would be very grateful if you could return any completed work to school following home learning. This will be stored in school and then issued should a bubble collapse to allow online learning to resume.



Pupils with Special Education Needs and Disability will continue to be supported in line with our SEND Offer, however plans will be reviewed in the first two weeks to take into account the impact of lockdown and school closure.

Finally, to all parents and children of our St. Alphonsus' family, a massive thank you and well done. The last few months have brought with it an uncertainty which we have never experienced before. You have coped with the many challenges and worries of lockdown, including uncertainty over work, home schooling, health concerns, worries over members of your wider family and so on. These worries may be with us all for some time so please remember that we continue to be here to support you as much as we can.

We look forward to welcoming all the children back and hope and pray that we are starting on our road to recovery and that the children will be able to experience some aspects of normality by the end of the academic year. Please be reminded that our expectations remain the same for all pupils and we look forward to welcoming them back and moving forward immediately with their learning.

Stay safe

Miss McCann

