

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome back! It is wonderful to finally be able to see our school family as a whole! The children have settled well into the new routines and systems and are very much enjoying being back in school. We welcome our new reception and nursery starters - they and their families are very welcome as they begin their learning journey at St Bede's.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you all of the measures we have put in place following government guidance in order to make our school a safe environment during this pandemic. Hopefully, this letter will reassure you of the careful planning that has been undertaken to allow our school to fully reopen.

Dropping off and Picking up:

Firstly, thank you for your support and cooperation regarding the staggered times for mornings and afternoons. These times have been put in place to ensure the playground does not become too congested. Please continue to keep socially distancing around the public pathways- we want to make sure you and your child feel safe at all times. The system we have in place seems to be working well. We appreciate the fact that you are collecting your child/children swiftly in order to help us clear the playground in order to keep everyone safe. Staff will always try to handover children promptly especially when the weather is poor. In order to keep congestion to a minimum, please remember only one adult during drop off and collection time.

Uniform and frequently used equipment:

Full uniform is a requirement. Staff within the EYFS team clean equipment and surfaces at regular intervals throughout the day. All children in KS1 and KS2 have been provided with a named clear "zip wallet." Inside each wallet, they have all the equipment they require in school. They are responsible for their own equipment and therefore will not be sharing frequently used equipment with their peers. We ask that the children refrain from bringing in their pencil cases from home.

Classroom Layout:

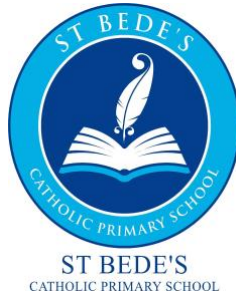
Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to work in different groups within their class bubble and have movement in different activities within the classroom. Children in KS2 classrooms have less movement around the room, sitting in rows and forward facing where possible. This is not how we usually manage our classrooms but complies with current guidance.

Break Times:

Welcome - Love - Inspire - Respect - Patience - Community

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown | Head of School: Mrs J Wilson
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Tel: 01642 485217 | Email: enquiries@stbedes.npcat.org.uk | Website: stbedes.npcat.org.uk

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Children are placed into year group bubbles. There are staggered playtimes and designated spaces so that these bubbles can play safely and distance as much as possible throughout the day. The children have already commented that they have more space to run around. At the moment, we are not allowing contact sports like football but like everything else, this will be reviewed.

Lunch Time:

EYFS and Year 1 children will dine in the hall within their year group bubbles. Dining tables are disinfected and wiped at the end of each sitting-ready for the next group. Year 2 and KS2 children will continue to dine in their classrooms with their year group. We are pleased to be able to offer all pupils a hot meal service at lunchtime. For those partaking in the hot meal service in Year 2 and KS2, this will be individually boxed and delivered to their classrooms. If you would like to know the menu for September, please visit our school website. Please be mindful, if your child/children choose to have a school lunch, they need to remain on school lunches for the whole week. It is not possible to change daily. All classes have scheduled, staggered time outside in their bubbles during lunchtime.

Birthday Cakes and Treats:

Sadly, until further notice, we ask that parents do not send in birthday cakes for the rest of the class to share when birthdays are celebrated. However, if you would like to send in sweets to celebrate your child's birthday, this will be allowed if those sweets are individually wrapped. For e.g. haribos

Curriculum:

The Curriculum for this year will be known as a "Recovery Curriculum." This entails a curriculum which is tailored to meet the individual needs of all our pupils in terms of learning and mental health and well-being. Pupil voice is very much at the heart of our curriculum which has planned opportunities to discuss, reflect and share experiences. The impact of our curriculum will ensure that pupils are both resilient and confident. We will ensure that all learning is based on children's newly established starting points in order to help them achieve their full potential and more! The curriculum will continue to be challenging. The planned Curriculum will also support us in our journey of re-establishing relationships across our whole school community.

Reading Books:

Please continue to encourage your child to read each night. We will shortly be providing reading books from school and we ask that you comment in your child's reading diary. When books are returned to school, they will be quarantined for two days before being put back onto shelves for other children to enjoy and read.

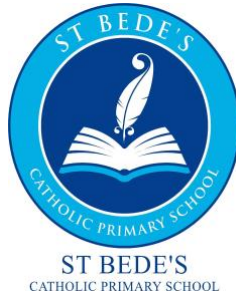
Physical Education:

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We are delighted to have added a new sports surface to our playground to support PE and sport at St Bede's. PE lessons will commence the week beginning 21st September. All classes in school will have PE **each Wednesday and should therefore come to school wearing their PE kit**. They will remain in the PE kit all day- there is no need for extra school uniform. **Foundation Stage children do not need to follow this plan at present- more details will be sent out to EYFS parents as soon as the PE timetable is organised.**

St Bede's PE kit consists of:

- plain white short sleeved t-shirt,
- plain navy blue shorts (warm weather)
- plain navy sports jumper and plain navy jogging bottoms (cold weather)
- plain navy blue sports socks.
- Supportive trainers should be worn.

Earrings should not be worn.

We are also delighted to inform you that PE specialist Coach from St Edward's, Mr McTiernan, will be working with each class on a fortnightly basis. The pupils have already been introduced to Mr McTiernan on Wednesday 16th September. **When Mr McTiernan is not in school, PE will be taught by the class teacher.**

Cleaning:

Staff conduct routine cleaning of surfaces and equipment throughout the day. We also have a midday clean where high touch surfaces are disinfected (door handles, toilets, sinks) as well as a deeper clean of classrooms and desks every evening.

Sickness and Attendance:

Children must now attend school and attendance is monitored and we follow NPCAT policy and procedures. The attendance of each child will be monitored. **Please remember to contact the school office each day that your child is absent.**

Children will undoubtedly become unwell with sickness not related to COVID19. Sore throats and blocked or runny noses are not symptoms of coronavirus. In the case of a heavy cold, children may need to take a day or two off to get better.

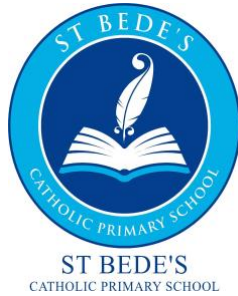
However, if your child displays COVID19 symptoms- has a new continuous cough or a fever, or a loss of - or change in - their sense of smell or taste, they may have coronavirus. Your child should stay at home, isolate for at least **10 days** and **be tested**. Other members of your household including siblings should also self-isolate for **14 days** from the point when your child first shows symptoms.

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The best advice here is that if you are unsure, contact 111 for advice or to arrange a test. We will inform parents and carers if there are any positive cases in school and where classes may have to isolate and begin home learning via Google classroom platforms. Therefore, it is vital that we have up to date contact details - phone numbers and email addresses.

Breakfast and Afterschool Club:

Just to be aware, we are in the process of discussing how a breakfast and after school facility could be facilitated for the pupils and parents of St Bede's. **Please note this is only in discussion stages.** The finer details will be communicated to you as soon as we know if this will be possible.

Extended School Activities:

We are also in discussion about the organisation of extended school clubs after school. Details will be given at a later date.

Homework:

Homework will resume shortly and individual year group teachers will inform you of expectations. Where possible, homework will be set via our Google Classroom platform. This is much more reliable for families and more eco-friendly as it saves paper and photocopy costs. Where families do not have access to internet or computers, paper copies will be provided for them. In the event a child or group of children have to isolate away from school, teachers will be able to set work to be completed at home.

Collective Worship and Prayer:

As a Catholic school, the prayer life and spirituality of each child is important to us as they learn and grow in their faith. Sadly, faith communities are unable to gather in larger numbers so we are unable to gather in the hall and worship as a school family. Classes will gather in their own classrooms to pray, contemplate and worship. Canon Turnham has set up social media where we can link to Morning Mass in church. School staff will access this so we can take part as a class family in each of the classrooms.

Finally, these are very much different, challenging and unprecedented times. We appreciate that it may have been an anxious time for all as our children have returned to school. However, as a school community, we will continue to support one another throughout the journey of this new academic year.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
With best wishes,

Mrs M D Brown and the Senior Leadership Team.

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