



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 Edward'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. In light of this, please also remember to keep socially distanced around the public pathways and ensure that your children are supervised 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. **Due to health and safety, please note dog are not allowed on the playground.**

Uniform and frequently used equipment:

Full uniform is a requirement. Staff within the EFYS 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 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.

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown | Head of School: Mrs A Teasdale
St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Eastbourne Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QS
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Break Times:

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 KS1 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. 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 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.

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Physical Education:

Week commencing 21st September, on the days your child has PE, we ask that they come into school in their PE kits and remain in their PE kit for the whole school day. The PE days for year groups are as follows:

EYFS - Friday	Y1- Thursday	Y2 - Thursday	Y3/4 - Tuesday
Y5 - Tuesday		Y6 - Monday	

Parking:

Please do not park along double lines or block resident’s driveways when dropping off or collecting your children. Please also remember not to park in the Curial Office as this is a private car park. There is ample parking for parents situated at the Little Theatre.

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.

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:

As you are aware, Breakfast and After School Club has been available since Monday 7th September 2020. For the foreseeable future, sessions are to be held in the School Hall. The children will be separated into





their school year bubbles in order to remain in line with current guidelines. Children attending Breakfast Club are to be brought through the brown gate to the side entrance of the school hall, where a member of staff will be available to sign them in. Children attending Afterschool Club - when collecting children from Afterschool, you are required to ring the Afterschool Mobile (07597351477) when you arrive at the school gate. A member of staff will then bring your child / children out to you. With regards to resources, they will be limited and will be sanitized after each session. The safeguarding of our children and staff is our highest priority during these difficult times.

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. The Holy Name of Mary Church has now reopened for Sunday Mass and Fr. Tom would love to see families return to celebrate with him. Unfortunately numbers are limited due to social distancing so a place would need to be booked. Sunday Mass is at 10.30am and to book a place see further details as advertised on the Parish social media. Fr Tom is also very keen to update the Parish register. You will find the necessary form on our school website and The Holy Name of Mary Facebook page.

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, Mrs A Teasdale and Mrs K Fox

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