



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of the academic year 2020 / 2021, we begin to set our sights on the opening of school in September 2021. As stated in a previous letter, this academic year hasn't been without interruptions to your normal day to day life and it has been a challenge to adapt your routines to the changes. We very much thank you for your support with this. Throughout the school community, we have observed determination, resilience and patience when juggling family commitments, remote learning (live lessons) and google classroom tasks.

This letter is to provide you with updated information and guidance which will support the return to school in September 2021. Procedures and systems may be very different from current systems in place. Please read the following information carefully in order to understand the measures and expectations as the country moves towards Step 4 of the Roadmap, we will continue to manage and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

From Step 4, school will no longer trace close contacts – close contacts will still be identified through NHS Test and Trace.

- From Step 4, your child does not need to remain in a consistent group (bubble)
- From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff or visitors either in classrooms and or communal areas.

### Attendance

In September, school attendance will be mandatory. If your child cannot attend school for COVID related absences, school will provide remote education for your child.

We will continue to take precautions in line with DFE guidance such as:

- Pupils will be encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the “catch it, bin it, kill it” approach. Lidded bins are situated in every classroom.
- The Government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.

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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  
Tel: 01642 819507 | Email: [enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk) | Website: [stedwards.npcat.org.uk](http://stedwards.npcat.org.uk)

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### Track and Trace

Latest guidance states that children will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace informing them that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. *You **must not** send your child to school if they are showing one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or if they have had a positive test result.*

### Arrival and departure times

All children will enter school through the brown gate/curial office or the entrance on Eastbourne Road from 8.30am onwards. The gate will be closed at 8.50am. Children are expected to go straight into their classroom ready to begin their school day. There is no need for parents to congregate on the playground as this will help the children arrive promptly in school to begin their activities and continue to keep the community safe. We have been so impressed at how independently children have been entering the school environment each day. School finishes for all pupils at 3.10pm. When collecting your children from school, please enter school via the brown gate or the entrance on Eastbourne Road via the caretaker's house. Parents of pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 please make your way to the KS1 playground where you will be able to collect your children. If your child is in Y3/4, please wait on the maze area to collect your child from their class. Parents of pupils in Y5 and Y6 please wait on the KS2 playground to collect your child. If your child is in Nursery, please continue to use the Nursery entrance for arrival and departure. Timings for Nursery sessions are as follows - Morning session 8.20am – 11.20am and Afternoon session 12.20pm – 3.20pm

### Organisation of classes

From Step 4, schools are no longer required to group children in consistent class groups (bubbles) or to keep groups apart. This means that assemblies and larger group activities can resume. However, if there is an outbreak, we may have to consider the reintroduction of bubbles or keep groups apart for a temporary period of time to reduce mixing between groups.

### Our curriculum

We will continue to provide a challenging and personalised curriculum in all subjects in order to support the needs of our pupils and address the gaps as a result of possible lost learning time during the academic year 2020/2021. The mental health and well being of our children remains a high priority in our curriculum. We want to equip the pupils with

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the coping strategies they need for dealing with a very different world than they were used to.

### School uniform requirements

Children are required to wear their full uniform when they return to school in September. School uniform is available from Ross's ([rosssltd.co.uk](http://rosssltd.co.uk) - 01642 246150) on Borough Road, Middlesbrough. Full uniform requirements are as follows:

<b>Foundation Stage – Nursery and Reception:</b> A navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan and a pale blue polo shirt.	<b>In Reception class</b> , children should wear grey shorts or trousers, or skirts and pinafores.
<b>Key Stage 1 and 2 (boys and girls)</b> Blue shirt, school tie, navy V-neck jumper or cardigan, grey trousers or shorts, grey skirt or pinafore.	
<b>Footwear</b> - Black Shoes, <b>NOT</b> trainers. Grey or navy socks/tights	
<b>P.E. Uniform</b> (boys and girls). Because of the very nature of PE and dance all children should have a change for these lessons.	
<b>Indoor PE</b> White T-shirt, navy shorts and black plimsolls.	<b>Outdoor PE</b> White T-shirt, navy blue jogging/tracksuit bottoms Navy blue sweatshirt/jumper (no logo needed), Black Trainers

A full PE kit will also be needed. All pupils can come to school wearing their PE kits on their allocated PE days. You will be notified of your child's PE day in September. This may be subject to change as the Autumn term progresses. Ensure your child brings a clearly labelled water bottle into school each day. This will need to be taken home with them at the end of each school day.

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### Catering arrangements

From September, children will be able to eat lunch in the school hall with their peers. The cost of a school lunch will now be £2.20. If your child usually brings their own packed lunch, please make sure that their lunchbox is clearly labelled with their name and year group. Lunch boxes must go home at the end of each school day.

### Breakfast and after school provision arrangements

Breakfast and After School provision (B&AS) will be available from **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. Sessions are as follows – 7.45am, 3.00pm - 4.30pm or 3.00pm - 6.00pm. The B&AS provision will operate in the school building. The children will have access to school resources and facilities, for example: playground for outdoor play; computer suite to access computers to help support the completion of homework. All pupils must complete a form prior to attending B&AS. (More details will be given in the Autumn term)

Children attending B&AS in the morning can enter via the brown gate. Parents are requested to ring the B&AS mobile (07597351477) and a member of staff will come to the gate to collect your child. When collecting children from after B&AS in the evening, you are required to ring the B&AS mobile number of 07597351477 when you arrive at the nursery entrance. A member of staff will accompany your child to the Nursery entrance. A gentle polite reminder for the purpose of safeguarding, all contact must be made using the after B&AS's telephone number.

### Farewell and welcome

As you are aware, Mrs Cox, Mrs Willington, Miss Hamilton, Mrs Griffin, Miss Keely and Mr McTiernan (secondment with NPCAT) are leaving St Edward's today. We say a fond farewell and wish them all the very best for the future. We also say goodbye to Mrs Rachel Pathirana, our admin clerk who will be leaving St Edward's after spending 14 years with us. She is a valued staff member and a much respected colleague. I know I speak on behalf of you all when I say we will miss her warm smiles and her gentle presence in a busy school office environment. You will be missed Rachel – please keep in touch.

On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July, we welcomed two of our new members of staff Mr Joyeux and Miss Mullen. It was delightful to see pupils meet and greet our new staff members. The pupils spoke very positively of their new teachers. We look forward to welcoming them into our school family in September.

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I can't finish this letter without saying a heartfelt well done to our Year 6 pupils. This year has been a very different and unexpected end to their time in primary school. Things haven't always gone to plan but I think it is fair to say that we have been able to make their final week in St Edward's memorable. We want to compliment them on their positive outlook, mature attitude and resilience during their final year in primary school. We wish them good luck for secondary school. On behalf of all the staff and governors we bid them a very fond farewell.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the entire school community. It really is a partnership between school, parents, extended families, governors, parish and Fr Tom. This continued support and these ongoing friendships really help to forge relationships between all and ensure St Edward's remains the wonderful place it always is.

School will close **Friday 16th July at 3.10pm** for the summer break. School reopens for pupils on **Thursday 2nd September**.

In closing, we wish you a safe and relaxing summer break. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all those in our community who are self-isolating or who have been affected by COVID in one way or another. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Best wishes,  
Mrs M D Brown  
Executive Headteacher

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