



St Pius X Primary School
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we begin to set our sights on the full opening of schools in September. Over the last four months, the whole school community has faced challenges that we could never have imagined. Yet we have faced them. Our pupils have faced them and you, as parents and carers, have also faced them. You have shown determination and resilience in juggling family commitments with home-schooling. For this we thank you. We also thank our pupils. Many have needed to adapt to home learning and have needed to display new skills of resilience and independence.

Thankfully, we are delighted to confirm that the Government has allowed schools to reopen fully in September and we look forward to welcoming back our pupils. The school has not been the same without them all.

In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when our pupils return to school for the new academic year. This letter sets out some of the changes and protective measures the government is asking us to put in place and what you will need to do to help ensure we can be as safe as possible for everyone.

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

Attendance

In September, 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 Boyce so we can ensure remote learning continues. We would ask for 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.

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 Headteacher 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. If the area to be visited is at high risk of transmission of the coronavirus, the school must ensure that there is an individual risk assessment in place for the child to return to school. Legal powers to enforce attendance will be used if your child is not in 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.

Operational Guidance

It is the current plan that all children **will** return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020. However, there will be some changes to the start and end times for some children due to the requirement for schools to introduce staggered days in order to limit the interaction between larger groups. (Parents of children in the new Reception class are asked to follow the arrangements as explained on the *Welcome to Reception* letter for the first few days.)

Arrangements for each year group are as follows:

Class	Start time	Entrance point	End time	Collection point
Morning Nursery	8:30am	Nursery gate	11:30am	Nursery gate
Afternoon Nursery	12:15pm	Nursery gate	3:15pm	EYFS gate
Reception	9:05am	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate	3:05pm	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate
Year 1	9:00am	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate	3:00pm	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate
Year 2	8:55am	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate	2:55pm	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate
Year 3	8:45am	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate	2:45pm	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate
Year 4	8:40am	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate	2:40pm	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate
Year 5	8:35am	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate	2:35pm	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate
Year 6	8:30am	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate	2:30pm	Chard Close/ Chantry Walk gate

Parents and pupils must observe social distancing measures around the gate: no parents will be allowed on the school site. The above times must be strictly adhered to. Any parent arriving late should ring the school office and not enter the school grounds. Please try to limit the number of adults dropping off and collecting children - one adult would be ideal. 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. Please remain outside the gate whilst waiting for your child and allow them to come to you. Please leave as soon as you have your child - do not linger to talk to others - even if at a safe distance.

Breakfast Club provision will not resume at the start of the Autumn term. We will send a separate letter out next term containing details of how and when this will operate.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered throughout the day, in line with government guidance, and children will work within year group 'bubbles'.

All children must return to school in full school uniform.

Although movement around the building will be limited, in school we will operate a 'keep left' policy to minimise contact when it is necessary for pupils to move around the building.

The classrooms will look different when the children return. In Years 2 - 6 the children will initially be seated in rows to comply with Government guidelines. We do not feel this is appropriate for children in Nursery, Reception or Year 1 and their classrooms will be set up to reflect the necessary different areas of learning. Materials and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently in school.

No personal items should be brought to school other than a coat, sun hat and water bottle. If we are fortunate enough to have good weather in September then sun cream should be applied before arriving at school so there should not then be a need to send sun cream to school. There will be no access to refills of water during the day so please ensure that you send a reasonable sized bottle with your child each day.

We are still awaiting information from our catering company about the exact arrangements for school meals in September and will inform you of these as soon as possible. However, we can confirm that we will ensure a full provision for all pupils requiring meals is ready and in place for the start of the new term.

Please note that should any guidance from the Government change over the summer, the arrangements detailed above may need to be altered. We will inform you should there be any changes to these arrangements as soon as possible.

Recovery Curriculum

When the children return to school, they will begin work on our 'Recovery Curriculum.' The primary focus of the recovery curriculum is to 'help children to recover from their loss of routine, structure, friendship, sleep, opportunity and freedom' by focusing on key basic skills (Reading/Writing/Mathematics); understanding new rules and our school values; restoring children's mental health and rebuilding the resilience of our pupils to allow them to become effective learners again.

We are confident this transition curriculum will enable our children to once again become efficient and confident learners. This time will reinforce our very high expectations of all children. Many children will have regressed as a result of not being in school however we will do everything we can to ensure each child quickly progresses as appropriate. Our quest is to journey with each child through a process of re-engagement, which leads them back to their rightful status as a fully engaged, authentic learner.

We will be working with Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind to provide additional COVID-19 recovery group sessions for any children who would benefit from this extra, intensive support.

Behaviour

In September 2020, we will be launching a new positive behaviour policy. Details of this will be shared with you in a separate letter, which will be sent home early next term. This will be carefully explained to the pupils on their return to school.

The APPENDIX TO BEHAVIOUR POLICY: ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO ACADEMY ROUTINES AND PROTOCOLS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DANGEROUS DISEASES, means that any child putting others at risk will be sent home immediately. This includes consistent refusal to follow social distancing measures and other anti-social behaviour such as spitting - never has this taken on a more sinister possible consequence than at the moment. This appendix is available to view on our school website.

Contact with School

All contact with school is via telephone and email. Please do not visit the office. If you need a face to face meeting with staff, this will need to be prearranged and appointment given. Please adhere to all measures in place, particularly with regard to drop off and pick up times.

Please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details and that you are able to be contacted throughout the day.

Class teachers for 2020-2021

Class	Teacher
Nursery	Miss Green
Reception	Mrs Cooper
Year 1	Mrs Tye Miss Haycock (Wednesday)
Year 2	Mr Cara
Year 3	Miss Brunini
Year 4	Miss Cunningham
Year 5	Miss Dixon
Year 6	Mr Connelly

Goodbyes

We wish all of our Year 6 children well as they leave St. Pius X to continue their learning at secondary school. This has certainly been a final year in primary school like no other, but we are very proud of the way in which they have faced the challenges of the year and of all that they have achieved throughout their time here. Good luck to you all and we hope that you enjoy the next stage of your education.

There are two members of staff leaving our St Pius family this summer:

Miss Hodgers is leaving us to take up a new teaching post in Stockton. I would like to wish her all the best in her new job and I would like to thank her for the work she has done this year with Year 3.

After many years as Headteacher, Mr Gair has decided to move on and is leaving St Pius. I would like to thank him for his years of service to the school and wish him all the best for the future.

Thank you

I would like to personally thank all parents and carers for their support this year. A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without you and your cooperation and support. Staff and I, look forward to continuing to work closely with you from September.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work this year. It has been an incredibly strange year and they have embraced this with goodwill and continued to work hard to support the children, either by working in bubbles or providing virtual learning.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy summer holiday.

Best wishes

N Bennett

Mr Bennett