

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Motto

Be ambitious for the higher gifts.



Tuesday 01 September 2020

PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE CAREFULLY

Dear Parent/Carer,

Subject: Full Re-Opening - September 2020

We are delighted that we are now able to welcome back all children to school. It will not quite be a return to 'full normal' but it is a huge step in the right direction. We appreciate that some of you may still feel anxious about returning your child to the school setting. I would encourage you to read the attached letter from Kevin Gordon, the Director of Children's Services in Oxfordshire. This gives an update on the COVID cases in Oxfordshire, an assessment of the risk to primary age children as well as signposting further useful information.

To enable us to open fully as safely as possible, we have applied DfE and Public Health England guidance to our setting. The government's plans are based on the twin strategies of limiting contact between groups of pupils and continued enhanced hygiene and cleaning measures.

Organisation and Staffing

From September, we will operate class sized bubbles for five days a week. Pupil bubbles will not mix during the school day, though staff may work across bubbles during the week, for example, to cover classes or provide Planning Preparation & Assessment time (PPA). Where possible, movement of staff between bubbles will be minimised and adults will adopt appropriate social distancing.

Social Distancing for Pupils

DfE /PHE Guidance states:

'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing'

Therefore, our main barriers against the spread of infection are:

First and most importantly, if your child shows any signs of being unwell, please do not bring them to school. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-in-children/>

St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School

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If we suspect your child is ill or is showing signs of symptoms of COVID-19, they will be isolated within school and you will be contacted. **It is vital that we have a current contactable mobile number for you.**

Children and staff are now eligible for COVID-19 testing, though there may be delays. The NHS guidance is here; <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

If a staff member or pupil gets a confirmed positive result for COVID-19 the staff and pupils in the group or bubble will be sent home and are advised to self-isolate for 14 days. We will be advised by Public Health England in this instance.

All staff maintaining social distancing and rigorous personnel hygiene.

There is no requirement for staff in school to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) unless they are dealing with intimate care or with a colleague or child showing suspected symptoms of COVID-19. Staff will, however, wear face masks when meeting with other adults in the school building. If your child wears a face mask to school they must remove it safely on arrival (not touching the front) and then wash/sanitise their hands. Temporary face masks may be placed in covered bins provided or, if reusable, placed in a plastic bag and taken home at the end of the day.

Children will continue to be strongly encouraged to maintain hygiene standards whilst at school i.e. regular washing of hands, etc

Additional cleaning will be carried out during the school day of cloakroom areas. Cleaning is also carried out throughout the day of frequently touched surfaces in the classroom.

Other Information

Attendance

From September, attendance at school is compulsory. Therefore, families must provide a reason for absence. We will, of course, talk to you about any specific concerns you have regarding your child returning to school in September.

Contacting staff

As parents are no longer permitted to enter the building, should you wish to talk to your child's class teacher please e-mail or ring the School Office and a telephone call can be arranged.

Home Learning

The school will not be providing remote home learning in the new academic year as all pupils should be back in school accessing a broad curriculum. We will revert to sending homework tasks out. You will be informed when homework is sent and when it is expected back.

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Curriculum catch up

During the first few weeks of the Autumn Term teachers will be using a range of strategies to assess their new classes and identifying gaps in learning. There will be a primary focus on the core subjects. In particular, key skills in reading, writing and maths. Appropriate interventions will then be put in place where needed to help pupils catch up. There is not a 'one size fits all' approach to this. All pupils will have been impacted in different ways by the unprecedented circumstances of the last few months.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

We are unable to provide Breakfast and After School Clubs without mingling children from different bubbles. Henceforth these clubs are suspended (subject to constant review).

Lunches

If possible, we would ask parents to provide their child with a packed lunch. The kitchen will be able to provide a packed lunch for those pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) or Universal Free school Meal (UFSM) - pupils in Tigger, Fig or Fir Classes. Pupils will be eating lunches together in their classrooms.

Water bottles

Pupils in Key Stage 2 (Oak, Ash, Bay & Willow Classes) will be able to bring in a clearly named water bottle which they will be asked to keep in their bag or on their desk in class. We will provide cups and water for children in Acorn, Tigger, Fir & Fig Classes. Children must not share water bottles or cups.

Uniform

We expect all pupils in Reception to Year 6 to wear uniform. Acorn pupils are requested to wear school sweatshirts.

PE equipment/indoor shoes

We aim to minimise the amount of 'stuff' moving between home and school. Your child will not require PE kit or indoor shoes for the new term. However, they will need pair of trainers on the days they do PE. Pupils can wear trainers to school of course.

Music tuition in school

Currently suspended (subject to review).

Swimming (Year 4)

Currently suspended (subject to review).

Outdoor Learning (Year 1)

We hope to re-start this during the Autumn Term.

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Parent Consultations/meet the Teacher

Currently suspended (subject to review). As we are unable to run 'Meet the Teacher' events your child's class teacher will be sending out a key information sheet shortly.

Kit and equipment

Older (Year 4 and above) children are encouraged to provide their own pens/pencils/rulers etc, in the classrooms which will not be shared with others. We can supply these resources if required. Staff will minimise the use of shared equipment and ensure that other shared equipment (for PE/games for example) is regularly cleaned throughout the day. Some harder to clean resources (for example soft toys/sand) have been removed from the setting.

Playtimes

We will provide opportunities for class groups to have recreation outside separate from other groups.

Assemblies

Classes will attend an assembly in the hall with one other class bubble (socially distancing) once a week. All other assemblies will be held in class.

First Holy Communion /Confirmation

We shall be writing to those year groups affected shortly outlining plans drawn up with the Parish to ensure all eligible pupils complete these sacraments this year.

School events

We will notify you as and when Whole School Masses and events may take place. Currently these are suspended.

Timings - Drop off and Collection

These are staggered to minimise adults on site. Please be on time dropping off and collecting your child.

Drop off

8.30am to 8.45am - children of Willow, Bay, Ash and Oak Classes.

8.45am to 9.00am - children in Acorn, Tigger, Fir and Fig Classes.

Collection

3.00pm - children in Acorn, Tigger, Fir, and Fig Classes.

3.15pm - children in Willow, Bay, Ash and Oak Classes.

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In and Around the Premises

Only 1 adult will be allowed in the school grounds to drop off/collect their child. Parents should maintain social distancing from other parents. Please follow the 'one way' system' at drop off and collection times. Entrances to classes will be signposted. Only use the designated door/stairway for your child's class to drop off and collect. Pupils can either be sent in or parents will be asked to wait and then step forward to drop off at the door with a staff member present. It may, on occasion, be necessary to ask a parent to help support their child in the classroom if the child has become unduly upset at drop off time (on this occasion we would ask that parents wear facemasks). Please always observe social distancing in and around school.

Parents should leave the premises quickly and should not stay on school grounds longer than necessary. Current government guidelines encourage us to minimise the number of contacts we have during the day with other groups and families.

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 3rd September.

Best Regards

Tom Walker
Headteacher

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