



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)



Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Temple Road and Coronavirus updates

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I am writing this letter today for 2 reasons, firstly to say thank you to those of you who have been so supportive with our new routines for drop off and pick up, I am happy to say this is the majority of our parents. Although not ideal, (and we can't wait for it to go back to normal!!) it is now working really well with just a couple of areas we need to address. Your support and dedication to following the procedures we have put in place is really helping the system work but I am conscious that with poor weather looming this will test our systems in yet another way and request that you are patient and kind in the coming days and months.

In this letter you will find information relating to the local and national lockdown with some ideas of what you can do to help and you will find an update on the long awaited barriers for Temple Road.

Key reminders:

Please follow the advice below during pick up time and drop off times-

- ✓ **Wear a face covering**, unless you are medically exempt
- ✓ Keep 1m+ in between you and the parent in front of you
- ✓ Do not gather in groups, only family groups
- ✓ When you have collected your child, please move away from the gate immediately so that parents who are waiting can collect their child
- ✓ Do not stand near the curb when the buses are arriving or leaving
- ✓ Please stand against the wall and leave a gap wide enough for parents and children to pass without them having to go on the road or brush past you
- ✓ Only 1 parent should come to pick up in order to reduce numbers
- ✓ Drop and go is back in operation – remember you cannot park there
- ✓ If you were shielding or are more vulnerable, please wait until a later time to collect your child – all gates will stay open til 3.25pm.

Please note:

I am speaking to the minority here, and it is with heavy heart that this needs to be said again:

- It is not acceptable to swear at staff or be aggressive towards them – we are all doing our best and the staff out on the road are putting their lives at risk to try and make it safer for you, they do not deserve to be treated in this way and the children around do not deserve to see this kind of behaviour.
- If we continue to see this behaviour, the Governors will be informed and further action will be taken on individuals and if staff feel intimidated or threatened - the police will be informed.

We are one community, we all need to do our part and work together during this challenging time.

Pick up times:

EYFS and Year 1 and 2 gate opens at 3pm

Year 3 and 4 (plus younger siblings) gate opens between 3.05pm and 3.10pm

'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.' Ofsted 2017

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Year 5 and 6 (plus younger siblings) gate opens at 3.15pm

All gates will close at 3.25pm

The timings are set to reduce the number of parents near school at the same time to help with parking and queuing so please do not feel the need to rush and be first in the queue, you have plenty of time.

It's raining!!

If it is light ish rain, the children will come out and wait as normal, so please make sure they have their raincoat with them.

In the event of heavy rain, we will keep the children inside and call them out when you arrive – this is just so they don't get soaked while waiting for you but please be aware that it will take the children longer to come out to you as they will be coming from inside school.

Kirklees barriers update and update on other avenues we have explored:

Last Thursday, after chasing it again, I got word that we have been approved for barriers until December. The barriers to create a wider pathway are supposed to be in place before the end of this week but we have not been given a date (so keep everything crossed it will be sooner rather than later). In the meantime, staff in the hi-vis jackets will continue to create a wider pathway to enable you to pass and cross the road.

I have also investigated some different options due to the amount of time it is taking to get the barriers. Ideally, I would have liked to come back to the playgrounds but unfortunately this is not a possibility as we cannot create a 1 way system due to how our site is laid out and so it is not allowed.

For the last week or so, I have been looking at how we can use our gates at the top of the field to reduce queuing on temple road. Initially, we were told that they could not be used as the way across the field would be a health and safety risk to children (they could slip and fall on the wet grass while they are walking across them). This week we have finally hit upon a solution – building a temporary path! We have no funding for this pathway and no money in the budget but I really believe it will make a massive difference to the congestion of adults waiting on Temple Road. And so I am making this plea. **Please, please, please contribute to the Recreational fund if you can afford to. We need to raise over £2000 for the cheapest solution!! At the moment we only have about £100 in the fund. It is only £19.50 per year which is 50p per week and it means that we can make all of this safer for our children and you.** You can either contribute the full amount, contribute more or contribute less – but every little counts. Thank you in advance everyone. If you are able, you can contribute to the fund via parent pay.

Coronavirus updates:

Last night the Prime Minister announced further measures to try and stop the increase of cases. Dewsbury is still in local lockdown because our cases are not reducing quickly enough. The virus is still here. Until the virus has minimised, we are required to keep the extra measures such as handwashing, social distancing and our temporary arrangements for drop off and pick times in place. It is in our best interest to follow all of the advice to help our community come out of a local lockdown.

With this in mind, I must request that all adults wear a face covering while waiting for their child – this is for your protection and to protect others. I also want to remind you that school supports any child who also wants to wear a face covering and if this is something you wish your child to do, they are allowed.

After doing a little bit of research yesterday, I found the following information came into force yesterday:

What you cannot do in Kirklees in addition to the national guidance from 22 September

- You cannot meet or host people you do not live with in private homes or gardens unless they are in your support bubble.
- You cannot visit someone else's home or garden even if they live outside of Kirklees, unless they are in your support bubble.

In addition to these restrictions, the Government advises that:

- You should not socialise with people you do not live with, unless they are in your support bubble, in any public venue.
 - This applies to inside and outside of Kirklees. Examples of public venues include pubs, restaurants, cafes, shops, places of worship, community centres, leisure and entertainment venues, or visitor attractions and parks.
- You should not visit friends or family in care homes, other than in exceptional circumstances. Care homes should restrict visits to these circumstances.

What a support bubble is

A support bubble is where a household with one adult joins with another household. Households within a bubble can still visit each other, stay overnight, and visit public places together.

What you can do in Kirklees

- You can look after children under 14 and vulnerable adults from a different household. This means that grandparents can still provide childcare.
- You can still go to the shops, hairdressers, gym and almost all other businesses.
- You can go to public venues like cafes, bars, parks and all those places with your household or support bubble.
- You can continue to travel in and out of Kirklees for work.
- You can go on holiday with your household or support bubble.

When people can come into your home or garden

- If everyone in the gathering lives together or is in the same support bubble
- To attend a birth at the mother's request
- To visit a person who is dying (the visitor can be someone the dying person lives with, a close family member, friend or, if none of those is visiting, anyone else)
- To fulfil a legal obligation
- For work, or to provide voluntary or charitable services
- For education or training
- For childcare provided by a registered provider
- To provide emergency assistance
- To enable one or more people to avoid injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm
- To help move house
- To provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person
- To continue existing arrangements for access to, and contact between, parents and children where the children do not live in the same household as their parents, or one of their parents.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Stay well and keep safe,
Miss Hayes and all the staff of St Paulinus.