



# St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

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

(cf John 8:12)



Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **The barriers are going – changes to home time from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May!**

Dear parent/ guardian/ carer,

As you will be aware from my last letter, the barriers will be being removed over the half term holiday. As you know, a few months ago, Leaders of St Paulinus and those responsible for Health and Safety worked really hard to come up with a new plan that would be COVID secure but also more safe than going back to standing on roads: a one way system was organised but we never got to trial it as our Local councillors and Kirklees managed to find funding to continue the use of the barriers. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our local councillors and Kirklees in helping us keep you all safe – barriers are surprisingly expensive and our Local Councillors used their own ward budgets to keep them in place once Kirklees funding had run out!

So after half term we will be implementing a one way system on school grounds for parents to collect their children. All parents need to be aware and accepting of the fact that this is still not an ideal situation, there will be teething problems and it is unlikely to run smoothly from the beginning. St Paulinus asks that you are kind and considerate when entering the premises and help us to keep it as safe as possible for everyone. **On Wednesday (tomorrow), we will start our trial run while we still have the barriers in place.** This is so we can evaluate it and make changes to things if we see something is not going to work once the barriers have gone. It is also worth being very clear that we all would prefer to go back to normal too and hopefully that next step is on the horizon – fingers crossed for 21<sup>st</sup> June.

I am sure that you also have seen that Kirklees has been put on a watch list due to rising cases, it is vital that we all still try to do whatever we can to stop the spread of the virus, especially seen as 1 in 3 people don't have any symptoms at all. The Government advise that if large groups of people are meeting that people should wear face masks and so we ask that parents coming on to school grounds to collect children wear their face mask (unless medically exempt) to add an extra layer of protection for staff and pupils. It is also advised that we do not meet indoors due to the rising cases. This means that the office and school building will remain closed to parents for the time being until we are advised by PHE that we can lift this measure. In order to minimise the number of people on site, please be aware that only 1 parent should come and collect their child/ren.

Below you will find the more in depth details of our plan for the next few weeks:

### **Morning drop off arrangements:**

There will be NO CHANGES to coming into school in the morning, you can continue to drop your child at the gates and they will go straight into their classroom just as they do now.

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Drop and go will be back in operation once the barriers have gone (from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June). Any child using drop and go should go straight in the bottom gate when using this facility and walk up the inside paths. Please remember you are not allowed to park up and leave your car in drop and go.

**I remind all parents that they cannot park on temple road outside of the school – this includes on the zigzags, in the drop and go and in the bus stop section.**

## Home time Arrangements:

We will be returning to the old days in some ways which means that **siblings will no longer be able to be collected together** as we have been doing – you will need to collect them from their own year group place like we did pre-pandemic.

### Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:

Parents will line up at the bottom gate as you do now – going down the hill. The children will come out on to the grassed area and the car park. Parents will enter the gate, your child will be called as they are now and they will come to you. Then you and your child will walk up the middle of the car park or on the path and exit via the middle gate instead of going round the barriers. If you need to collect a KS2 child, you will join the KS2 queue here at the middle gate.

The bottom gate will open at 3.05pm, please don't all rush at once, remember to keep 2m distancing and wear a face covering as advised when being in a crowded place. This is to protect yourself and to protect others. Please note: The KS2 gate will not open until 3.10pm for those of you collecting KS2 children.

### Year 3, 4, 5 and 6:

All parents will line up at the middle gate – going up the hill (just as Y3 and 4 parents do now). The children will come out on the Key Stage 2 playground into their classes. Parents will enter via the middle gate, walk down into the car park and past the school entrance and around the corner where we have cleared a pathway. Parents will follow this pathway (please make sure you do not go on the grass and watch your footing on the stairs). Parents will go up a short flight of stairs, then another flight of stairs where they will arrive at the playground. Your child will be called as they usually are, you will meet them and then walk up the long path and go out of the top gate like you used to do in the old days!

Collection for Year 3 and 4 will be from 3.10pm and collection for Year 5 and 6 will be from 3.15pm – please do not come before this time if you are only collecting a child from Year 5 and 6, this is to prevent (as much as possible) an endless queue. The gate will open at 3.10pm for Year 3 and 4 parents to allow parents on site. Again, please do not rush and come a little bit later to avoid the crowds – it is usually fairly quiet by 3.20pm as it stands at the moment. Remember to keep 2m

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distancing and wear a face covering as advised when in a crowded place. This is to protect yourself and others.

## Information for all parents and children:

- **Only 1 adult per family can come on site to collect – we do not have room for more adults**
- Those collecting KS2 children must be aware that there are 2 flights of stairs to climb on your route – and take this into consideration/ be prepared for this (see below for further information).
- As far as possible, please try to not touch anything when on school grounds – this is to avoid the spread of the virus through touch points. We will wipe down bannisters after parents have all gone but can't do it after each individual person and can't clean every possible surface.
- Please make sure you continue to move through the routes smoothly, if you need to speak to the teacher this will still have to be done via a phone call or the year group email unfortunately.
- The School office will be closed, and you will not be able to enter the school building when collecting – but the office can still be contacted via phone or email: [office@stpaulinus.org](mailto:office@stpaulinus.org).

## Special considerations:

KS2 parents - If you have a physical disability that means you cannot climb stairs or you have a pushchair with you and therefore stairs are not appropriate, it is not suitable for you to take the pathway for the KS2 parents. In this case, please let School know via the year group email or by ringing the office and we will arrange for your child to be waiting at the top gate for you – your route will be to come in the middle gate, go up the pathway and leave via the top gate instead of taking the stairs.

If you have a child in year 5 and 6 and they walk, or you would like them to make their own way out of the top gate to meet you elsewhere e.g. at the top or bottom of the hill, please write a signed letter or send an email to the year group email address detailing this if you have not already done so. Please note, that children in younger year groups will need to be collected by an adult. Walkers will leave the top gate as the first group to leave and this will be at about 3.10pm/ 3.15pm.

## When will this arrangement start?

This arrangement will start on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May for a trial period! I am in no doubt it will need to be tweaked but we have to start somewhere and it is our hope that home time arrangements will be back to normal from the 21<sup>st</sup> June assuming the national road map continues to progress as planned.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hayes  
Headteacher

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