



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

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

(cf John 8:12)



Tuesday 20th July 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian / Carer,

We can't wait for September!

As you know the Government have moved forward with their road map and have removed many of the restrictions that have been in place for the last year or so. They have also released some actions for schools to take so that we can begin to prepare for September. The following information will explain our current plans but they come with a disclaimer. There has been a number of occasions when guidance and actions for school have changed last minute (sometimes less than 12 hours before the children were due to be in school). With this in mind, please take this as being our plan for September, but be aware that this could change at any point!

The Government and PHE (Public Health England) have made it clear that we will not be COVID free in September. The following plans and measures are in place to try to protect our school (staff, parents and children) as far as possible and to try and avoid an outbreak in school. I ask that all parents abide by the actions we lay out below and help keep our school open and up and running. The actions for school released by the Government, make it clear that a child's education should be prioritised wherever possible but not at the risk of harming others.

In this letter you will find important information on what we are doing to make it safer for all and there will be things for you to talk to your child about. By sending your child to school you are agreeing to all the conditions below, especially the procedures that are in place if a child is ill.

The following rule remains in place and must be strictly adhered to. Please do not send your child into school if they are unwell with coronavirus or if they are displaying any of the key symptoms of COVID-19:

- **High temperature**
- **Persistent cough**
- **Loss of taste and/ or smell**

Please ensure you have arrangements in place to come and collect your child if they fall ill at school.

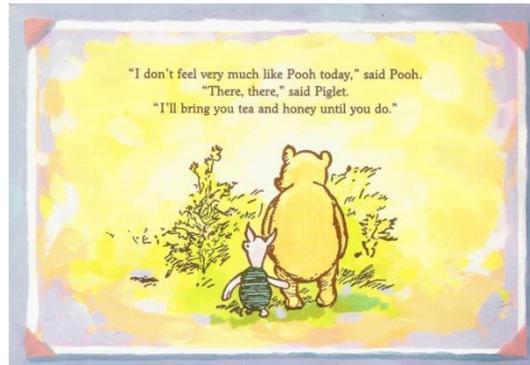
There are no longer any bubbles in place and schools are no longer required to track and trace from September. You will however, need to provide proof (e.g. a screenshot of a test result) if your child has tested positive or negative. We will not keep these screenshots on record and we will delete them once we have seen them to get the information we need. You will also have seen that children under the age of 18 no longer need to isolate if they have been a close contact of a positive case. Please note that, children with symptoms of coronavirus or those who have had a positive test will need to isolate. Children who live in a household where someone has tested positive for the virus will also need to isolate.

In order to make the return to school as normal as possible for the children, we are not changing everything at once. Below you will find the changes in preparation for September.

Have a wonderful Summer holiday everyone, stay safe and I will see you in September!

Miss Hayes
(Headteacher)

'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



Staff and pupil illness – IMPORTANT!

If a staff member or child displays any symptoms of COVID-19: they must not come into school and if they display these symptoms in school, they must be sent home. They must contact school to let us know they may have coronavirus and they must have a PCR test to confirm if they are positive or negative for Coronavirus and inform us of those results. This test must be taken within 2 days of phoning the school. If anyone in the household is displaying symptoms, the child/ staff member should also not come to school and follow the above steps.

If symptoms appear in school, the child/ adult will be isolated from the other children and sent home immediately to then get a PCR test. Parents must have plans in place to come and collect their child immediately if they are unwell. While waiting for their parent they will remain in the isolation room.

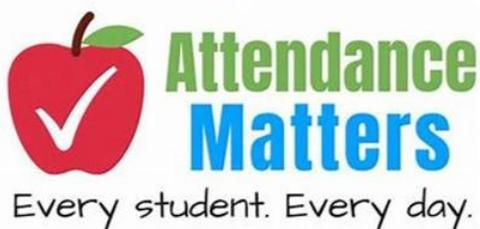
All parents must contact the school to let us know about the outcome of the PCR test. An LFD test will not be accepted as evidence, it must be a PCR.

Telephone nurture support will be offered to families that need it following a positive test.

Keeping our children safe is everyone's responsibility. We can put all the measures we can into school, but they will not work if families are not following the same measures at home. In order to keep everyone safe, please make sure you continue to implement measures to keep yourselves safe at home

By sending your child to school, you are agreeing to the above measures and will make provisions to keep your child at home/ pick your child up straight away if needed.

Attendance



All children should be returning to school in September and normal attendance procedures will be reinstated. The Government says that **School attendance is mandatory again** and that pupils should be attending every school day. The pupil target of at least 96% to 97% attendance is back in play, which means the Government expect that children only have 6 days absence from the school over the whole year. Penalty notices for holidays and leaves of absences will be issued again by Kirklees, a positive PCR test is the only

reason to have a child off school for an extended period of time, and these children will not be penalised for their lower attendance.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to remind parents that your child's attendance directly affects the School's performance both with their academic achievement but also with our OfSTED judgement. OfSTED look to see that as a school we have at least 96% attendance in order to achieve "Good" so by sending your child to school, you are helping School remain a "Good" school for all children.

Children not expected to attend:

Children who are advised by a medical professional that they need to shield and should not attend school, are not expected. Their attendance will be recorded in a special way and parents will need to supply school with a copy of the official letter stating they must not come to school.

Children who have tested positive or are displaying signs of coronavirus must not attend – this absence will be authorised and children (and their siblings) will need to isolate for 10 days or until well. Please contact Mrs Watt for further advice.

Children who are ill with normal illnesses – please follow normal procedures and contact Mrs Watt, who will discuss your child's specific case. You will need to let school know before 9am if your child is not coming in, otherwise we will need to employ first day calling procedures, which could result in a home visit to check that everything is ok.

Medical appointments:

Please ensure that you arrange any appointments outside of school hours. The children have missed enough school already and it is not appropriate for children to be arriving late or leaving early (every minute counts). The only exception to this is for children who need to attend hospital appointments – as these cannot be changed.

Giving medicines in school:

School can administer medication to your child if need be, but we would prefer you to manage this at home outside the school day. If they need to have medicines during the day then the usual paperwork will need to be completed – we can only administer medication to your child if it has been prescribed by a Doctor – it must have a label with their name and dose written on it. A medical form will need to be completed by yourselves. This medication will be kept in a locked area and administered by 2 members of staff when needed.

Lates:

Lates are back in operation, all children must be in their classroom **by 8.45am** in order to be marked in as on time. Please note that Kirklees also check on families who are often late, as well as those who have under 93% attendance, and further actions could be taken

Timings of the day:

Drop off in the morning:

We have decided to make minimal changes to the mornings. We have found that parents have really liked the drop off arrangements and it has helped children settle in quickly into their new classrooms.



School reopens on Tuesday 7th September for most children. Arrangements for our new reception children can be found in the starter packs.

The 3 school gates will be opened as they are now, at 8.30am, for children to enter the premises. The children will then go straight to their classrooms rather than going outside.

Things to note:

KS2 parents (Y3 – 6) will not need to come on to the playground, you can drop your child at one of the gates and they can walk round themselves.

KS1 parents (Y1 and 2) – you will drop your child at the playground door and they can go to their classrooms independently.

EYFS parents – you will drop your child in the early years unit for the first couple of weeks as the children get used to the routine and then it will move towards dropping them at the door after that initial period.

Drop and go will be operational, and KS1 children can be dropped at the gate to walk in by themselves.

Once the children have entered the school grounds, they will go straight to their classrooms, where they will find their teachers waiting for them.

School gates will close promptly at 8.50am – due to staffing we cannot accommodate late children so please ensure they are on time!

Picking up arrangements:

We will be returning to normal dismissal procedures:

11.45am:

- Nursery – can be picked up at the main doors

3.05pm:

- Reception – can be picked up from their classroom door on the reception playground
- Year 1 can be collected from their classroom door
- Year 2 can be collected from the KS1 playground

3.10pm:

- Year 3, 4 5 and 6 can be collected from the KS2 playground.

Year 5 and 6 will be allowed to leave the KS2 gate and walk (home or to the top or bottom of the street) with a written and signed note from parents. Younger siblings will not be able to do this.

Please note that these timings indicate the time the children should finish school lessons so it may be that they are sometimes 5 minutes or so late as they are travelling out of the building or if they are waiting for other classes to come out before them.



Wrap around care – before and after school clubs/ Kids club

Kids club is open as usual, please speak to Sara Shires if you need to use their services.

After school clubs are currently due to reopen in January but we will monitor the situation and this may change.

Lunch time arrangements



Kirklees will continue to provide hot meals as they do now in September.

Universal Free School Meals and those in receipt of free school meals:

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 get a free school lunch and those children of families who are eligible for FSM in Y3 - 6 will also receive a free lunch. As far as we are aware, there will be no FSM vouchers from September onwards apart from for children who have tested positive for covid as they are unable to come into to school.

Paying for School meals:

If you are not eligible for a free school lunch, you can pay for your school meals on parent pay – they cost £11.75 per week or £2.35 a day. It is important that you remain in credit on your accounts and you can pay for these in advance.

Travel

The Government recommends that all children travel to school on foot or by cycling. You should avoid public transport wherever possible.

The drop and go zone will not be operational at this time and please remember you cannot park in front of school!

The school buses are running every day. Please talk to your child about sitting away from others and trying to use the same seat for every journey. School buses have also said that all children using their services are required to wear a face covering. They will need a plastic bag to store their face covering in, over the school day.



Boothroyd have contacted me to remind all parents that they will not be able to walk across their playground when coming into school. Please keep this in mind.

Please remember that the roads are very busy around school – all parents have a responsibility to park safely and to be courteous to other road users. No-one is allowed to park in the bus stop area.

PPE, Handwashing and Hygiene:

There have been many recommendations by the Government and we have implemented the following processes:

Handwashing:

Handwashing is still in place in September, we will continue to use the same system we do now and to use hand sanitiser on some of the washes.

Washing hands using soap and water (your child is allowed to bring their own soap if you wish)

1. when they come into school,
2. before eating lunch
3. after they have been to the toilet.

Sanitising hands:

4. after breaktime,
5. when they come back from playing outside at lunchtime
6. when your child sneezes or coughs, they will need to wash their hands
7. when handling shared equipment e.g. PE equipment

Soap that is in school has been approved for school use and the relevant safety data sheets are on file. However, we are aware that with increased handwashing, it may be that your child has a sensitivity to the soap recommended for school use, in this instance the school is happy to allow your child to bring in their own liquid soap from home but they must not share this with anyone else in school and it will need to stay in school until the end of term. You will need to provide written permission for your child to use their own soap for our records.

PPE:

Staff will need to wear forms of PPE for different roles e.g. first aid, cleaning and supporting poorly children etc. It would be good to talk to your child about how they should not be worried by any PPE; it just helps the teachers do different jobs. You can show them pictures of other countries where they normally wear masks etc, just to go about their daily lives and talk to them about how it is part of hygiene measures in places around the world.

Regularly wearing gloves is not recommended for schools as regular handwashing is a better option and safer for the pupils.

As we had this year, I am allowing all staff and children to make their own decisions and they are welcome to wear a face mask if they would prefer when they are in school. If this is the case, please make sure your child has a little plastic bag to put it in when they do not want to wear it. The children are quite used to seeing adults in masks now so they will not be frightened and adults will ensure that their teaching is not impaired by any masks they choose to wear.





Communication with school

You can contact your child's teacher directly through the year group emails or via a handwritten note. You can also request that a teacher calls you by phoning the school office. For anything urgent – we recommend phoning the school office and someone will be able to help you.

The school office will be open again, but we ask parents to only use face to face communication methods when absolutely necessary. If a parent or visitor comes into the school building, they will need to wear a mask.

nursery@stpaulinus.org
reception@stpaulinus.org
year1@stpaulinus.org
year2@stpaulinus.org
year3@stpaulinus.org
year4@stpaulinus.org
year5@stpaulinus.org
year6@stpaulinus.org

office@stpaulinus.org
nurture@stpaulinus.org

What should the children wear or bring to school?

Uniform:

The uniform rules are back in place. We have had several children not wearing the correct uniform this year but have been sympathetic to what has been going on with the pandemic and so have not really focused on this element. **From September, all uniform must be correct.** When in uniform the children look smart and so feel smart and it helps us show we are proud of our school.

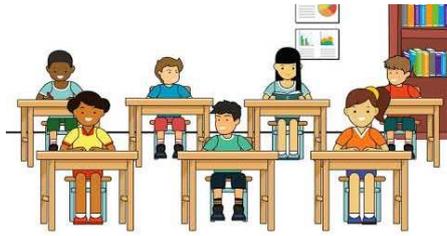
Don't forget – as mentioned several times over the last year, the new PE uniform will be coming into place in September for all children and will be worn on your child's PE day. See separate sheet.

Bringing things to school:

Mobile phones should not be brought into school. If you need to discuss an individual circumstance on this matter, please contact school.

Children are still allowed to bring their own tissues

Your child will not need any pencil cases, or toys, or footballs etc as all of these things are provided in school.



Teaching and Learning – what will a typical day look like?

We are pleased to say that things should be going back to normal. Your child will still have their own equipment, but we are now able to go back to group work etc.

The children are allowed to play out all at the same time and we are allowed to have assemblies etc. we won't have parent invite events initially and will carry on doing somethings like certificates as we have been doing this year but if all goes well with the national picture, we hope to have parent invite events at Christmas again and to put on our nativities and mince pies and carols events. So watch this space!



Home learning:

Home learning will be available for children who are shielding and for any child who is required to self-isolate for a period of time due to coronavirus. Please keep your google classroom details handy just in case.

Next steps:

If you have any further questions or queries, please do contact us either by email to the year group or by phone to the office and we will try our best to answer any of your questions or address your concerns.

We understand this may be very daunting for some families, but we will do our very best to look after your child in the same way we always do.