



# St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

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*Be yourself, but be it very well.*

Head Teacher **Mrs A Garrity**  
Deputy Head Teacher **Mrs R Kerr**

18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## Returning to School in September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope families are enjoying the summer holidays and having a relaxing break. As you are aware, restrictions and procedures have changed since we were last together in school and in order to prepare for the return to school in September, we have put together some plans for the children's return on Tuesday 7th September. These plans are still provisional and are based on the current guidance from the Department for Education. They are subject to change should the government make any additional changes at the end of the summer holidays.

### Bubbles

From September, it is no longer necessary to keep children in their class bubbles. This means that the normal school play time (10:30 am) and lunch time (12 midday) will resume, and all children can mix on the playground. We will be able to hold assemblies and liturgical prayer together as a school community in the hall and parent liturgies will hopefully resume later in the autumn term.

### Pick up and drop off arrangements

From September 7th, there will no longer be staggered start and finish times for each year group. In the morning, the children can be dropped off at the school gates between 8:30am and 8:50am. Staff members will supervise the children on the yard or direct them into school in the case of rain/snow. All children must be in school for 8:50am. Parents/carers can drop their children off at the gates where staff will allow them onto the school site. At home time, all times will go back to normal - 3.05pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and 3:10pm for Years 3 to 6. Parents/carers can wait at the bottom of the playground for their child, this allows teachers and children to see where parents are standing.

After-school clubs will resume in the first half term. Further information about clubs will be sent to parents in September. After-school clubs usually exit school from the front door and can be picked up from this area of the playground.

### PE Kits and School Uniform

Children should come to school wearing their full school uniform on most days. This includes a school or navy sweatshirt/cardigan and black shoes (not black trainers). Teachers will communicate to you when your child has PE and, on those days, they should come to school wearing their PE Kit. PE Kits consist of a white T-shirt or polo shirt (logos on t-shirts unless our school logo, are not permitted), navy shorts or trousers/leggings in the wintertime - please ensure that these are navy, black or dark grey.

As there is limited space in cloakrooms, children should bring only their reading packet and lunch box (if required) to school rather than large bags.

## Hand Hygiene

Frequent and regular hand cleaning is now part of school life and therefore this will continue into the new academic year. Children will have their hands sanitised upon entering school and at regular times during the day.

## Managing Covid-19 in School

As Covid-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, we need to reduce the disruption to children's education. The school will keep an up-to-date risk assessment and an outbreak management plan will also be devised in the event of an outbreak of positive cases within the school community.

## **Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation**

The government stated that from 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will **no longer be required to isolate** if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace or identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. Instead, children shall be contacted by Test and Trace if they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

## **Positive Cases of Covid-19 or Where a Child Develops Symptoms**

Children and staff must stay at home if they have any Covid-19 symptoms or if they have had a positive test result. If any child develops Covid-19 symptoms (however mild), we will call parents to come and collect them and the child should follow the public health advice. If a child develops symptoms in school, they shall be asked to sit in the Rainbow Room, which is our isolation area.

## **Asymptomatic Testing with Lateral Flow Tests**

The government stress that testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission within schools. It is likely that the government will continue to promote the twice weekly testing with lateral flow tests from September however, Public Health England have stated that primary age children should not be tested using lateral flow tests and if any child has symptoms, they must take a PCR test immediately.

## **Cleaning and Well-Ventilated Spaces**

As part of our risk assessment, regular cleaning of areas and of equipment will continue to ensure that we are doing all that we can to prevent a spread of the virus in our community. Teaching environments will be well ventilated.

## **Visitors to the School Site**

As the Autumn term progresses, we will begin to welcome parents back onto the school site for events that we hold in school such as liturgies. If parents need to contact the school regarding an issue or to speak to a member of staff, we still encourage you to telephone first. If you need to pick your child up from school during the school day, please come to the school gate and press the buzzer and a staff member will assist you.

It has certainly been a strange and ever-changing year for our children and families, and I am grateful that we can, at last, achieve a sense of normality. In school, the children have responded well to restrictions and procedures and families have supported this. As I take up my new role as Head Teacher of St. Cuthbert's, I would like to thank everyone who has helped us create a safe environment for the children during the pandemic. I will contact all families before the end of the summer break if any of the guidance changes and I am looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Garrity

