



ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Learning in the Light of Christ

21st May 2020

Dear parents,

I hope you are all remaining safe and well and thank you for your continuous support at this difficult time.

I am writing with more information about the measures which will be in place to help keep our children and the staff as safe as the circumstances allow, should Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and Year 6 return to school on 1st June. Needless to say, this is not how we would like to be seeing each other again, but we will be delighted to see the children and will do everything we can to keep them safe and happy at school.

Thank you for replying to the questionnaire last week, which has greatly helped us to plan for the possible wider opening on 1st June. Some of you, rightly so, have given a provisional answer while waiting for more information. Once you read the information here, I would please ask you to complete the form below by **Friday 22nd May 12 noon** with your final decision. After that time, we will be unable to change our staffing or classroom preparation arrangements for 1st June. The next opportunity for attending school will be **29th June**. There is of course no compulsion for your child to attend and any non attendance will not be recorded as unauthorised.

Whilst we cannot guarantee that there will be no risk of infection, we have very carefully considered all the government guidance and have put measures in place that will keep the children and staff as safe as we possibly can in school. All these measures will be regularly monitored for compliance and effectiveness.

We will make school as interesting and fun as we can but for all of us, and especially for the children, it is not school 'as usual' as there will be very clear restrictions on mixing and playing with other children. For the well-being of both the children and staff in these changed circumstances, the school will only be open Monday to Thursday (likewise for work set on Edmodo).

These children will be kept in consistent, small 'bubble' groups in school. These groups may well have children from across year groups (depending on the numbers coming into school), and the children may or may not have their own class teacher with them. Those staff not teaching in school will be maintaining the online learning via Edmodo.

Mandatory social distancing

Social distancing rules **must** be followed by everyone at all times when dropping off and collecting from school, however early years and primary age children cannot be expected to

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remain 2m apart from each other and staff. (*Government guidance – Opening schools for more children and young people: initial planning framework for school in England 12 May*).

We plan to have:

- A one way system for access to school; entrance through the wider end of car park and exit through ramp or gate. There will be no cars on the school site.
- Clear signage and markers for measuring 2m distance.
- Access to all classrooms via different entrances (Nursery – small gate which is opposite the car entrance to the car park, Year 6 old front door, Years R and 1 through main gate)
- Staggered arrival and leaving times:
Nursery and Reception:
Arrive between 8:50am and 9:00am and collected at 2:45pm and 2:55pm
Year 1 and 6:
Arrive between 9:00am and 9:10am and collected between 3:00pm and 3:10pm
- Access for parent/carers is only to drop and collect their child and only at the designated times. There will be no access to the school building unless in an emergency.
- We ask everyone to do their utmost to be on time especially in the mornings as the car park will then be closed as it will be used as a teaching space. If due to very unforeseen circumstances you are late, please wait on the pavement and call the school office. A member of staff will collect your child from you.
- Only one parent/carer to accompany children to school and walking cycling is encouraged. (If cycling, children's bikes could be left at school in a designated area of the car park)
- All communication to the school office via phone or email.

In School:

- 'Bubble' groups of no more than 15 with consistent designated adults.
- A one-way system in the main school corridor.
- Pencils individualised and kept in trays.
- Resources used in class will be regularly cleaned.
- No bags in school apart from lunch bags.
- Phones should not be brought into school unless strictly necessary for those Year 6 children walking home alone. As usual these must be left in the care of staff in a wipeable box.
- No whole school gatherings – eg. School assemblies.
- Lunch will be eaten in the hall with the two groups per class but with distancing in place.
- Teachers planning for outdoor activities as much as possible.

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Cleaning

- 'Fogging' completed as baseline cleaning
- Regular daily whole school cleaning
- Hand sanitisers at every entrance (60% alcohol)
- Regular handwashing, with soap and water timetabled
- Specific teaching of handwashing techniques and reminders to wash hands timetabled
- Regular cleaning through the session of touched surfaces with antibacterial cleaner
- Regular cleaning of toilets
- Regular cleaning of general areas including door handles
- Doors propped open wherever safe to do so
- Advice to parents and carers is to wash clothing daily and continue good hygiene practices as children arrive home from school.

Illness

- Parents/carers must not send their child to school if they are unwell.
- Parents/carers must check that their child does not have any symptoms related to COVID-19 before leaving home.
- Staff will not be in school should they be unwell.
- Should anyone appear to have symptoms, however mild, of COVID-19 in school they will be immediately isolated and parents/ carers called to take them home straight away.
- Contact details must be up to date and parents/carers must be available to collect straight away if called by the school.
- If a member of a 'bubble group' is diagnosed with COVID-19, the whole group, including staff, must isolate at home for 14 days and follow government guidance for their whole household.
- Should a teacher be unwell for non COVID-19 related reasons and so not able to attend school then it is likely that their 'bubble group' will also not be able to attend as we will not be able to provide teaching cover.

From Home:

- Packed lunches or book a cooked lunch through parent pay.
- Water bottle which can be filled through the day; please ensure this is washed thoroughly on a daily basis.
- Snack
- PE Kit or similar comfortable clothing and these will need to be washed daily.
- Depending on the weather, coats or sun-cream (8 hour one) should be applied at home.

The curriculum will follow each class's Curriculum Map which will be emailed out as usual at the start of the term. The online and in-school curriculum will be structured so that the children at home are following a very similar curriculum to the children in school.

Year 6 will focus very much on transition activities. Whilst they will not be able to put together a 'performance' with a live audience or have an end of year Mass in the same way as usual, we are looking at ways to ensure we celebrate their years at primary school and all the learning and fun that has taken place. There will be no Edmodo work set for Year 6, however we will be able to signpost parents to transition and RSE materials.

Assessment

As you are probably aware all forms of formal assessment have been suspended. There will be no assessment of whether the children have attained 'expected' levels during this year or for the Early Years attained a 'Good Level of Development'.

However, we will be aiming to share with you the children's attitude to learning and areas for development through a summary report reflecting their work not only this term but over the last year. The teachers were due to write these on 1st June. Due to this being the reopening day, we have moved this to this Friday (22nd May). **Therefore, there will be no Edmodo set tomorrow Friday 22nd nor throughout the half term next week.**

Thank you for continuing to read every day with your child together with supporting with the Edmodo activities. All of this is so essential to the children's learning.

I hope you find this information helpful, but please do let me know if you have any questions. We will continue to update this information as the situation changes and develops.

Best regards



Mrs Aquilina (Headteacher)

Next Steps:

- Please make a decision as to whether you would like your child to come to school from 1st June and complete the form **by this Friday 22nd**. To ensure clarity, this form is to be completed by all Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6.
- If your child is coming in and you would like them to have a school lunch, please book through parent pay as normal.
- Ensure your child has a named water bottle and a snack in a disposable bag (not in a book bag).
- Ensure your child wears the school PE kit or something similar that can be washed daily.
- Ensure they are equipped to be outside (coat or sun-cream)
- Ensure no symptoms before leaving the house.
- Ensure contact details are updated and you can be contacted during the day.
- Be on time!