



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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15th June 2020

Dear Parent,

School Opening for Year One Classes - Monday 22nd June 2020

Earlier this term, we surveyed parents anonymously online and had both positive and negative responses from Year One parents who said they would send their child to school once we re-open. Following this, we are now asking you for FINAL confirmation if you wish to send your child back from Monday 22nd June. To plan our groups, we need final confirmation by midday on Wednesday 17th June via text message service – you only need to submit the name of the child.

Firstly, I must emphasise that it is our intention to continue with home learning for any child not attending school and this work will continue to be posted and monitored by the class teachers.

Any child attending school will be in a 'bubble' with a member of our support staff, and the four bubbles will be overseen by a class teacher.

We currently have place for a **maximum of 32 Year One children** and, should these numbers increase, we will need to reorganise the way we work – perhaps by children being timetabled for two days each week only with the school closed on Wednesday for cleaning. **This will be decided upon when numbers are reviewed.**

After an in-depth risk assessment with our Governing Body, we can confirm that children who return to school will need to follow the clear routines for the safety of our children and staff. **By choosing to send your child into school you are agreeing to all our measures and will comply fully with our expectations.**

Drop Off / Pick Up:

- You will be given a 10-minute time slot in which you drop your child off each morning / collect each evening.
- You will need to queue at a distance of 2m along the school drive – identified markings have been clearly painted on the drive for this. (See picture)
- You can not intermingle with other parents or their children and any pre-school children must not be allowed to wander freely.
- If you miss your allocated time slot, you will need to wait until the end of the sessions.
- Your child will have their temperature taken before entering school and will only be allowed in if it is in the normal range.
- When collecting your child, they will need to be organised in a line across the car park keeping a safe distance from others. (see picture)



Drive markings –
parents



Children's
Markings
for

School Day Routine:

- The children will immediately wash their hands and then they will be seated in a classroom with up to 8 other children – their “bubble” – which may be a mix from both Year One classes.
- This bubble will stay as a group for the duration of the school term.
- Your child will sit at the same table each day and the rooms will be devoid of resources/books etc that could pass on any infection.
- The children will be taught this new routine so that they are very sure of what to do and how to do it.
- The children from each bubble will not be allowed to interact and so we have timetabled playtimes to avoid any overlap.
- The children will eat their provided cold meal in their classroom before going outside to play (within their bubble only).
- The classrooms allocated to Year One children are the two existing Year Two and Year Three classrooms - making four rooms for four groups in total.
- There will be one allocated adult with each group who will be supported by a teacher overseeing the learning – this person will stay with them until the end of term.
- We hope to provide the children with at least the same experience as those who remain at home – but they will need lots of routine training before this will happen.
- Timetabled outdoor learning to avoid groups overlapping.
- The school corridors have been set up with markings so that children keep the distance that has been recommended for younger children.
- We have set up a one-way route around the school.
- Each bubble will be allocated one toilet cubicle which will be cleaned after each use.
- We recommend that children wear shorts and t-shirt with shoes that they can change into while in school – these could be their school PE pumps.
- Lunch is provided but please **provide some fruit for morning break** as the supply of fruit to school is currently interrupted by the pandemic.

Compliance:

- If your child is ill in any way, you must **not** send them into school.
- If a child becomes ill in school, you will be contacted and will need to collect your child straight away – the child will need to have a Covid-19 test with a negative certificate of proof provided before returning to school.
- The rest of the bubble will also need to go home on that day until we have a negative test from the ill child.
- If your child tests positive, the bubble will be asked to refrain from coming to school for 14 days and will all need to be tested and isolate.
- Failure to follow any of the measures we have put in place will result in your child being asked to stay at home for the remainder of the school year.
- Any child who cannot follow adult instructions will not be able to remain in school.

Please believe that we have put these measures in place to protect you, your child and our staff. These are unprecedented times and there is still much uncertainty about the nature of this virus and how it impacts on our health.

These measures will only keep us all safe if we each do our utmost to keep to them. The nature of children is that they will find it very difficult to keep socially distanced and there are certain times when the space will be breached – e.g. when the child moves out of their allocated place to get a drink of water, for instance – the rooms are too small for the required distance to be maintained – see pictures below.



Classroom set up.



We currently have a number of members of staff who are unable to work in school; should the additional members of staff who are allocated to each bubble fall ill or need to isolate because of other family members, we may need to ask that bubble to stay at home until such time as safety is assured.

We understand that these circumstances are far from how we would wish to educate your child and do not allow best practice teaching and learning of young children. We will do our best given the circumstances we are in. Please do not expect that your child will be receiving the most broad and balanced curriculum that they are entitled to – this is simply not possible.



Corridor markings



Bookcases covered

We will send you the details of your child's 'bubble', in due course and no later than Friday midday – they will be named G1b, G2b, G3b or G4b.

I would like to thank Mr Reid for his time, energy and great effort to create these measures in accordance with Government guidance.

Yours sincerely

H M Cusack

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Headteacher