



English Martyrs'

CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reopening of school for all pupils

I would like to start this letter with a heart-felt thank you to you all for your support during the school closures. The children have been our superheroes during lockdown and we would like to celebrate them by inviting them to come dressed as a superhero of their choice **on Monday 8th March 2021** – it could be a fictional hero, real-life hero or they could come dressed in their own clothes as the superhero they are!

Following the recent government announcement on the full reopening of primary schools, all year groups will be back in school from Monday 8th March, in full Winter uniform from Tuesday 9th March.

Attendance will return to being mandatory and our usual attendance policy will apply. We are currently working very hard on completing detailed risk assessments to ensure the safety and well-being of both pupils and staff.

The purpose of this letter is to set out some of the practical pieces of information that you will need to know so that your children can have a really positive start to the rest of this academic year. All pupils will revert to being in their original classes as they were prior to January 6th 2021 (the most recent lockdown).

Arrival and Collection Staggered Timings and Locations

We respectfully ask that everyone makes every effort to arrive and collect children during their time-slots. The playground gates will close **at 8.55am**. Should a pupil arrive after their allocated arrival time window to school, they should be dropped off at the pedestrian gate and should walk via the school office unaccompanied. If you would rather, you can drop them off at the door to the office area, but please do not enter.

Should you have children attending across more than one bubble (i.e. siblings), please use the **earliest arrival time**, but stick to the **staggered collection time**. Year 6 pupils are allowed to walk to and from school on their own, but must have written parental permission to do so. Please let the class teacher/school office know as soon as possible if it was not part of the pre-closure routine.



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To facilitate social distancing please see the table below for arrival and collection information.

Bubble	Classes	Arrival Time Window	Learning Starts	Collection Time Please leave playground after collection	Collection Point
Rec/Y1	1 Miss Daykin	8.30am – 8.40am Enter through Gate One (the playground) and children will be directed straight into class. Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).	8.45am	3.00pm	Reception Playground Enter through Gate One (the playground) and Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).
	2 Mrs Chibbaro				
Y1/Y2	3 Miss Coxhead	8.30am – 8.40am Enter through Gate One (the playground) and children will be directed straight into class. Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).	8.45 am	3.00pm	Key Stage 1 Playground Enter through Gate One (the playground) and Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).
	4 Mrs Ellis				
Y3/4	8 Mrs Pettifer Mrs Oldershaw	8.45am – 8.55 am Enter through Gate One (the playground) and children will be directed straight into class. Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).	9.00 am	3.10pm	Key Stage 2 Playground Enter through Gate One (the playground) and Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).
	9 Miss Firth				
	10 Miss Copeland				
Y5/6	5 Miss Macdonald	8.45am – 8.55 am Enter through Gate One (the playground) and children will be directed straight into class. Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).	9.00 am	3.10pm	Key Stage 1 Playground Enter through Gate One (the playground) and Exit through Gate Two (the car park.).
	6 Miss Pugh				
	7 Mrs Lawrence				



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Although very many of our pupils have worked hard using our remote learning resources and live lessons provided by our dedicated teachers, we are fully aware that some learning may have been lost. With this in mind, we have put together a 'recovery curriculum' that is designed to help pupils to reconnect, build confidence, close gaps and make sure that they get the learning and knowledge that they need to achieve success in the future.

First Week Back

Please could we ask that all children return their workbooks, reading books and remote learning packs back into school, they can also bring in a water bottle, lunch box and school bag. If you have loaned a Chromebook/laptop from school, we ask that an adult return it to the school office as soon as possible. In line with our risk assessment, no toys or additional items can come into school.

PE will be running as pre-school closures. Please see the table below to remind you of the days that children will be taking part in PE and to come into school in full PE kit.

Every Wednesday	Mrs Ellis and Miss Coxhead's Classes
Every Thursday	Mrs Chibbaro, Miss Daykin and Mrs Draycott's Classes
Every Friday	All Key Stage 2 Classes

And finally

Apologies for the amount of information that needed to be shared in one letter. We are so excited to be welcoming all our children back to school. We will be doing everything in our power to settle them back into routines as quickly as possible.

'Thank you' doesn't seem to be enough to express our gratitude for all the support we have received during school closures. It has been a tough 8 weeks for everybody but we have done it together!

Mrs Emma Jones
Acting Headteacher



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Safety Measures

We will be grouping children into 4 distinct bubbles – Rec/Y1, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2. We are doing this to reduce contact between different groups of pupils and to facilitate the stringent cleaning and disinfecting processes we already have in place to ensure that our school is as safe as possible.

In preparation for our re-opening, here are some key points that you need to be aware of. As government guidance evolves, some details may change; we will keep you updated via the school website and via email.

1. You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform your school. We advise anyone with symptoms to obtain a test and inform school of the results at the first possible opportunity. Even with a negative test result, pupils with symptoms or living with someone with symptoms will still need to isolate for 10 days.
2. The government has advised walking or cycling to school wherever possible to reduce the use of public transport.
3. Attendance at school will be **compulsory** for all pupils except in cases where they have received a shielding letter because they are extremely clinically vulnerable.
4. Pupils **will not** be wearing face coverings in school but staff will wear face coverings on the gate and around communal areas of school.
5. Your child will be expected to follow strict behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils, and keeping their hands clean. Pupils will be expected to wash their hands regularly, and/or use hand sanitiser.
6. Our school kitchen will be fully open and lunches will return to normal. Pupils eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school, and will no longer receive lunch vouchers. Lunches will be paid for via ParentPay as usual.
7. Children will be able to bring school bags and lunch boxes to and from school once more. They will also be able to take reading books and homework books to and from school.
8. School uniform (Winter) will be worn from the first day onwards; this applies to PE also.
9. There will be staggered starts and endings to the school day. Please use the space around our sets of gates to help maintain social distancing and try to only arrive at your allocated collection/drop off time so as to ease congestion.
10. Children will need **labelled water bottles** in school as they will not be able to drink directly from the water fountains.



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11. Breaks and lunch times will be staggered so that the children will remain with pupils from their bubble and not mix more widely. Lunches will be eaten in their classrooms to maintain the integrity of their bubble. Children will spend half of their lunchbreak inside eating their food and taking part in classroom based break activities and then spend half an hour outside with pupils and staff from their bubble. Morning break will be spent outside with pupils and staff from their bubble.
12. Breakfast club and afterschool club will run as normal but will be based within their bubble areas. Children should be dropped off for breakfast club from 7.30am onwards at the school office. They should be collected by 5.45pm from the same place. No other after school clubs will be running for at least the Lent term.
13. Each bubble will have systems for use of the toilets, regular handwashing and spot cleaning throughout the day. We are being asked to clean surfaces continuously throughout the day and wear PPE for first aid.
14. Children will be asked to wash their hands upon entry and exit from school, when changing classrooms, before and after break and lunchtimes and before and after eating. They may bring in hand sanitiser and hand cream if they are suffering from dry, over washed hands.
15. All parents must wear face masks upon entering the playground unless you are medically exempt.
16. Only **1 adult** should be present to collect or drop off their child/ren.

We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning after the 8 weeks out of school. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our school as safe as can be. Our entire staff team has great expertise both in terms of helping children to catch up but also in terms of pastoral care and I know how dedicated they are in supporting the children back into school.

We can't wait to welcome everyone back, however they are feeling and we will do everything that we can to make sure that the return to school is as safe, smooth and as positive as it can be. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for all pupils and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required.



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