



Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to be welcoming all of our students back to school on Monday 8th March 2021 after what seems to be a long time. As a school we have taken into account government guidance on keeping all our children and families safe.

Our children have shown great resilience over the last weeks, after once again being asked to complete their learning from home. We are very proud of our school family, from the hard work of the children, to the support they have received at home. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts over the last weeks regarding the support you have given. I'd also like to thank the staff of our wonderful school – the resilience and flexibility they have shown has shown their true value.

Most importantly, it gives us great pleasure to be welcoming you all back to our school once more and for hopefully, a much more extended period. Please see below the arrangements for Monday 8th March going forward.

A full risk assessment has been completed and is available to view on the school website.

Overview

As per government guidance, we will reopen to all children on Monday 8th March. During this week, children will complete assessments. This will allow teachers to analyse gaps in knowledge and understanding; once gaps are analysed, teachers will then be able to set timetables and the curriculum accordingly – this will be done in conjunction with phase leaders and the senior leadership team.

Movement around school/phase bubbles

The children's movement around school and working groups will be restricted as suggested by the government and for safety reasons. This was previously in place before Christmas whilst the children were in school.

We have decided that we will have the following 'bubbles' which will be based on phases and has remained the same from the Autumn term. The 'bubbles' are as follows

- Preschool/Reception
- Year I and 2
- Year 3 and 4
- Year 5 and 6

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Year groups will work in their own classrooms, but will be allowed to mix within their phases.

Arrival and Departure

The staggered start and end times for the children will still be in place and have not changed. We again ask that only one adult is on the school site for the start and end of the school day. Siblings in different phases will again be able to be dropped off and picked up at the same time.

Please see below a reminder of the drop off and pick up times for the phases

Reception/Year I/Year 2 –
 Year 3/4 Year 5/6 –
 8.35am / 3.15pm
 8.45am / 3.25pm
 8.55am /3.35pm

Pre-school

All day 9am – 3pm AM session 9am – 12pm PM session 12pm – 3pm

Please try not to arrive too early to drop your child/ren off or pick them up, this is so we don't have a large number of parents/carers on site at any one time.

All children will need to go to their classroom entrance, where teachers will be waiting to pick them up. Children may be asked to line up (it is not expected that children will socially distance) by their teachers – however, where it is possible, children will go straight into classes.

One-way system

Please see below a reminder of our one-way system we have in place. This is to allow for social distancing, please ensure you adhere to this for your own safety and the safety of others.

For parents taking their children to reception please enter through the reception playground gate, once you have dropped off/collected your child/ren please continue through to the pre-school playground. You should then exit via the pre-school playground gate and out along the path next to the staff car park.

Pre-school parents please enter through the reception playground gate and continue through to the pre-school playground, once you have dropped off/collected your child/ren please exit through the pre-school playground gate and out along the path next to the staff car park.

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Parents and Carers of children in years one through to six are asked to continue to the main KS2 playground. Please then follow the building round to the staff car-park and then follow the path down to the main gate at the bottom of the school site.

In school, one staircase will be used to go upstairs and one to come down. Where it is impossible to create a one-way system, everyone will walk on the left. However, corridors within school are wide enough to distance.

Other Teaching and Provision

Hygiene

Although children will not socially distance within their phase bubbles, the expectations around hygiene will still remain high. Children will be encouraged to wash their hands or to use hand sanitiser on arrival to school, after visiting toilets, after break times and lunchtimes. Children should not bring their own hand sanitiser to school.

Toilets

Children will use their currently designated toilets – all children will continue to be encouraged to use toilets throughout the day, so that backlogs are not created at breaktimes. A queuing system will be in place so that only two children can enter the toilet at one time.

Break times

Break times will be staggered so that phase bubbles do not cross – bubbles will also have sections of the playground allocated for lunchtimes so that contact is kept to a minimum.

Lunchtimes

Hot dinners are now available and can be ordered on line through school grid.

Collective worship

Collective worship will take place in classes until further guidance has been received. This is to restrict mass gatherings of children and staff.

Parent appointments

Due to restrictions that will be in place, parents will not be able to enter the school building without an appointment, until further notice. This may also impact on 'Parent's evening'. It is vitally important to us

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that we continue to liaise with you on your children's education. We will therefore continue with Seesaw as a home learning platform; year group emails will continue to be in operation and as always, please pick up the phone or talk to class teachers if you need to.

Uniform/PE

Children should wear their usual uniform as per the uniform policy. We ask that on the days when children have PE they come to school in their PE uniform.

Children are still welcome to bring in a PE kit - they may want to wear shorts for their lesson or change their t-shirt after.

Class teachers will inform children of their PE days this week so that you can prepare for the start of PE lessons from the week beginning the 7th September. PE will be taught outside unless there is no alternative. Any equipment used in PE sessions will be sanitised after its use.

Swimming

We are hoping that swimming will take place after Easter but this will be confirmed closer to the time.

Wraparound Care

Wraparound care will now operate as normal. Breakfast club will open at 7.30am and wraparound will be open until 6pm. The double doors at the top of the hall are where children should be dropped off/collected for wraparound.

Medical/isolation Room

The school meeting room, will continue to be used as an isolation space. As per government guidance, any member of staff performing first aid will be required to wear full PPE. In the event of a child showing any COVID-19 symptoms, they will be referred to the meeting room immediately. Arrangements will then be made for collection. Children will not be left alone, and members of staff will be available to support during this time.

Online lessons

In the event of any groups of students having to be at home due to COVID-19 lockdown, isolation or quarantine then 'online' remote lessons via Seesaw will replace 'in school' lessons. Online lessons will not be widely available to students who are off school.

Home learning

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Homework will continue to be set using Seesaw – this will allow teachers to view homework without the need to bring in books from home.

Face Masks

It is not recommended for children under the age of 12 to wear face masks. We do ask that face masks are worn by parents/carers whilst on site.

Please contact us if you have any further questions either by telephone or e-mail.

Ms O O'Beirne

Principal
Our Lady and St. Hubert's Catholic Primary School





