

We love and grow in Christ, we live and learn in partnership, we build and share together

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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July 15th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the amount of information I am about to give you but as we are in unprecedented times government guidance given to schools has been immense!

Firstly, I am delighted to tell you that Mr Naylor is continuing to make a good recovery. He regularly asks about everybody and he will come into school to see us as soon as he is able to and when circumstances allow. He thanks you for your good wishes.

FULL OPENING

We are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on **Wednesday September 2nd** and can't wait to see you all! School will be a little different from September and I want to make you aware of changes we have had to make in response to new government guidance. More information for parents/carers from the government can be found here www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term

There is a set of actions that schools must take in keeping everybody safe when all children return. We have been taking these already as school has been opened for specific year groups. These include

1. Ensuring those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
2. Ensuring that everyone cleans hands more often than usual
3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
4. The introduction of enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
5. Minimising contact between individuals and social distancing is observed where possible

Children will return as part of a class 'bubble'. I have written to you about bubbles previously. The government says that

'Schools will be asked to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day'



in order to reduce the risk of transmission. One of the ways we can do this is by having children stay as part of a group (bubble) throughout the day and not crossing with other bubbles if at all possible. This will include eating lunches in classrooms for most children to ensure that groups do not cross and movement is limited across school. We have used the 'bubble' approach with children in school since June and we are very lucky to have large grounds and play areas around school so that each bubble can be easily distanced from other bubbles.

The government clearly states that

'Groups should be kept apart, meaning that schools should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group'.

In most class bubbles children will sit side by side and facing forwards rather than face to face or side on. This is recommended in government guidance which specifically states

'We recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group.'

Sitting side by side and facing forwards is recognised as being a safer way of organising seating in groups.

Limiting possible transmission is crucial so in order to assist this we would ask that you **do not** send children into school if they have symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days. **If anyone in school becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they must be sent home. They must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test.** (As set out in the government 'Stay at home' guidance.) **We would also ask that you do not send your children into school if someone in your household displays symptoms.**

If anybody within the bubble, including staff, tests positive for COVID-19 then the whole bubble will have to isolate at home for 14 days.

All children are expected to be back at school in September and the government has made clear that this is not optional and that the 'usual rules on school attendance will apply'.

CLASSES FROM SEPTEMBER will be as follows :

2 year old provision – Mrs Wilson and Mrs Millar

Nursery – Mrs Currie

Reception – Mrs Dandy

Year 1 - Miss Loyden

Year 2 – Mrs Wright

Year 3 –Miss Austin

Year 4 – Mr Forsyth

Year 5 – Mr Gibson

Year 6 – Mrs Lamph

You will notice that Miss Berry is missing from our list. This is because of some lovely news - she is expecting a baby in September and will be commencing maternity leave! Miss Loyden will join us and will be teaching Year 1 having already met many of the children who will be in her new class. She has worked with us previously and knows our children and staff very well. Miss Loyden really loves our school and is delighted to be back.

On entering school children will wash hands immediately. This will be encouraged throughout the school day as has been the case since March. Every classroom has been issued with supplies of hand sanitiser, tissues and cleaning products in order to ensure that surfaces are wiped regularly and we are observing guidance. Children, we are told in guidance, do not need to wear masks and will therefore not be permitted to do so.

ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE DROP OFF AND COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

(staff will be on hand to direct you and welcome children)

Movement around the school site should be kept to a minimum and we are told to 'avoid creating busy corridors, entrances and exits.' We therefore have to ask that parents do not gather at drop off/collection points at the start and end of the school day and that only **one** parent/carer should drop off/collect them. We have been encouraged to stagger start and finish times in order to support distancing and times are as follows:

Drop off 8:45 – 11:45 pick up Or Drop off 12:30-3:30 pick up	Drop off 8:50 – 3:00 pick up	Drop off 9:05 - 3.15 pick up
Nursery class – left at gates, follow path around, enter through usual Nursery door	Y1 class – through gated entrance at left of main school doors in front of disabled parking	Reception – left at gates, enter through usual Reception Class door
2 year old class – enter at the front of school through the door to 2 year old provision.		Y2 – left at gates, enter through Y2 door on playground
	Y3 class – right at gates, enter through double doors near Y6 classrooms	Y4 – right at gates, enter through double doors near Y6 classrooms
	Y6 class – left at gates, enter through door in Y6 area off main playground	Y5 – right at gates, enter through Y5 classroom door

If you miss your allocated drop off time please contact school by telephone so that we can advise you. Unfortunately, we are unable to admit parents/carers into the school building at the moment as we have done in the past.

BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

The new government guidance states that, if possible, we are allowed to have a Breakfast/After School club if we can keep them to 'small, consistent groups'.

In March Mr Naylor wrote to explain that to avoid a budget deficit we were considering an introduction of a charge for each session for Breakfast Club. This is because our Breakfast Club has been costing almost £18000 per year to run and we can no longer sustain this due to budget cuts that have already impacted on staffing. We will therefore have to charge £2.50 per session running from 7.45am and will have to cap the number of children attending to ensure distancing. We can only hold it in the hall and would have to limit breakfast to toast. After-School club will also be limited and will run until 5.30pm at a charge of £6.50 per session, £3.50

per half session. Please contact school if you need a place in Breakfast Club/After-School club as we will have to book children in on a daily/weekly basis.

Sports activities/extra-curricular clubs have been suspended across town at least throughout the Autumn term until further notice.

UNIFORM

Children will be required to wear school uniform and you can order this in the usual way. If you are unable to do this prior to September we will understand and children will be allowed to wear plain, clean clothing for the first couple of weeks until uniform is obtained.

PE kit should be brought into school and left in school until half-term.

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL

From September all bills will need to be paid via Parent Pay. This will include breaktime snack, lunch, school trips, uniform, Breakfast and After-School Clubs. Mrs Moore has already sent details out to families by post. If you need assistance with setting up please contact school.

DINNERS

From September there will be hot and cold food options that can be delivered to classrooms for children to have lunch if they do not bring their own packed-lunch from home. Any spare classrooms have been allocated as temporary dining rooms and our Reception children will eat as one bubble in the hall.

Universal free school meals will still apply to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children.

AND FINALLY...

We wave goodbye to our lovely Year 6's in what is the strangest of times. We haven't been able to hold the celebrations and activities traditional to our school but we have adapted what we could and tried to make things as special as possible for them given the circumstances. They are fantastic young people and are an absolute credit to their parents and carers. We will miss each and every one of them and wish them the very best of luck as they move on to another exciting period of their lives. Never forget your time with us at St Francis of Assisi School because we will never forget you.

Thank you to all our St Francis families for your patience and support in difficult times. Home-schooling is not easy and cannot replace or replicate what we do in school. Rest-assured, we will do all we can to 'catch-up' when your children return to us, and there will be a school-wide focus on identifying gaps in learning, mental health and personal and social education from September.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Naylor (Acting Headteacher) and all of the staff