



## St. Bede's Catholic Infant School

*'Learn to love, love to learn'*

### Return to School September 2020 Reception children

Dear Parents/carers,

I would like to start this letter by saying on behalf of myself and the staff how proud we are to belong to our wonderful St. Bede's Community. It has been important throughout this difficult time for us to be as one and to care for each other. Parents have been unwavering in their loyalty and commitment to school. We are looking forward to our new Reception children and parents being part of our family.

Our children of course are our true blessing. They as we have said throughout are our pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

In line with the Department for Education's instruction, it is our plan that all children, in all year groups, will return to school from the beginning of the autumn term. For Reception children this will be:

Part time sessions Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Full time from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September

We would like to assure parents that we have, alongside other Headteachers and schools, and the Local Authority, completed a robust Risk Assessment and subsequent Action Plan so that we can maintain a safe learning environment for pupils and school staff when returning to school. The health and safety of our children, parents, staff and their families remains central to all our decision making as a school.

The DfE states that while coronavirus remains in the community judgements must be made at a school level about how to balance minimising any risks from the virus by maximising control measures with providing a full educational experience for children. We are required using DfE guidance to put in place proportionate protective measures for children and staff, which also ensure that all children receive a high quality education that enables them to thrive and progress. In maximising control measures as set out in current guidance we are confident that we are managing risk effectively.

It is obviously essential that we all continue to play our part in keeping our school and our community safe and the following is in essence an addendum to our Home/School Agreement.

Please read and familiarise yourself with all documents and information included in this letter and on the website most specifically the Return to School September 2020 section.

### Return to School September 2020 (School Website)

A Return to School September 2020 section of the school website has been created to ensure that you receive all the information you need. Please note to support clarity, where relevant separate documents have been uploaded for Reception and Years 1 and 2. Included in this section of the website is:

- An Action Plan for Parents which includes essential information from our full whole school Action Plan;
- A short 'Parent Information Document' which details staggered arrival and departure times, route maps for entry and exit to and from school, our school rules during COVID.

### Before School

- Wash yours and your children's hands before you leave home to come to school;
- If you are unwell or your child is unwell stay at home and inform school;
- If a member of staff, pupil, parent or any other adult show symptoms of Coronavirus or they have tested positive within the last 7 days, they are not to attend school.

The symptoms are:

- a new continuous cough or
- a high temperature or
- a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

### Staggered times

Arrival and departure times will be as follows and must be strictly adhered to in order to maintain harmonious social distancing and continuous flow:

### Reception Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September Part time sessions

Siblings within the Infant school:

am 8:35am-11.30am  
pm 1.00-3.00pm

### All other Reception children Part time sessions

am 9.00-11.30am  
pm 1.00-3.25pm

(Part time for 2 weeks. Note extension of part time to allow the children to settle into their new class)

### The Reception children will start full time on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

(If any parent has difficulties with this please let us know)

Siblings within the Infant school: 8:35am – 3:00pm  
Reception: 9:00am – 3.25pm

Please refer to the social story on the school website which details route maps.

Staff will be at the school gates and on the playground to support children and adults as they arrive at school. Adults mustn't congregate together on the designated site route into school or outside the gates. Adults are expected to keep 2 metres apart and the children must stay with the adult dropping them off and collecting them. Only one adult will be permitted to accompany a child onto their designated route.

#### Late Arrivals

Due to new routines it is essential that your child arrives and leaves at the detailed designated times. If you are late on arrival, your child's class will have already made their way into school and you will have to wait with your child until all of the other classes have gone into school. If there is more than one person late then you must wait at a distance of 2m from them.

#### Face Masks

If a child arrives at school wearing a disposable face covering Adults will be asked to remove it and dispose of it in the bin provided or take home any reusable face covering. Adults and children are reminded not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it. The children must wash their hands immediately on arrival. Further guidance can be found in [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#).

#### Travelling to School

Parents are encouraged to walk to school where possible. If you use public transport please observe Government rules.

#### Communication in September

In order to ensure social distancing and the continuous flow of people teachers will not be able to speak at any length to parents in person before or after school. Parents are asked to phone the school office with any urgent messages which will then be passed onto relevant staff.

The School Reception area is not to be accessed by parents unless staff determine it necessary. You will then be admitted one at a time. Any other parents will be asked to wait outside the door socially distanced. The DfE guidance states that coming into the site without an appointment is not allowed. However, parents can still speak to staff and receive support over the phone or via class email.

All parents have been informed of their child's new class and class teacher and that the children will in Years 1 and 2 go up as a class group to support their well-being. Class emails will be available as a continued form of communication from September. Please ensure you read all e-mails and any information, letters and messages sent and/or posted on the school website or school twitter feed.

#### Reception

Orange Class [orangeclass@stbedesinfants.co.uk](mailto:orangeclass@stbedesinfants.co.uk)

Yellow Class [yellowclass@stbedesinfants.co.uk](mailto:yellowclass@stbedesinfants.co.uk)

Purple Class [purpleclass@stbedesinfants.co.uk](mailto:purpleclass@stbedesinfants.co.uk)

Please can you inform the office of any change of emergency contact or changes to people who are able to collect.

### Equipment

Due to COVID-19 children will be allowed to bring in a limited amount of equipment. This includes:

- reading book/reading diary/home school book
- book bags (no larger bags or attached key rings/ornaments)
- lunch boxes
- water bottle

### Lunchtime

We will eat in classrooms until restrictions are lifted on the use of the hall. As a result for the first few weeks the school cook will provide a packed lunch. All Infant children are entitled to a free school meal at lunchtime as part of Universal Infant Free school meals.

### Uniform

On return to school the children will wear their school uniform to help them to settle back into their routine.

### PE Kit

The children are to bring their PE kit on their PE days only. These will be detailed in your child's home/information book. The children will take their PE kits home on the same day to be washed.

### Attendance

Attendance is compulsory from the beginning of the Autumn term in September. Attendance will continue to be monitored and if your child is absent you will receive a call from the school office if you have not contacted school with a reason for absence.

We completely understand the concern and anxiety our families face in this unprecedented situation. Please refer to the latest advice for parents/carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>.

Please be re-assured that the children who were in school in the Summer term settled very quickly and benefitted greatly socially, emotionally and academically.

### Learning

In partnership with school you have been supporting your children's learning throughout Lockdown and your support has been amazing.

### Mission Statement

At St Bede's Catholic Infant School, it is the intention of the whole school community to nurture a loving, safe, caring, supportive, quality environment in which the individual has an opportunity to develop intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

### Curriculum Intent/Aims

All our work is intended to fulfill our mission statement shown above. To achieve this mission, our school commits itself to continue on return in September to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the interests, abilities and needs of all our pupils, allowing each to achieve their potential in an environment where the Catholic ethos of the school permeates all aspects of teaching and learning. The current circumstances mean that we need to stay steadfast in these aims.

Our school is highly inclusive. "Our highest priority is to narrow the gap between the privileged and underprivileged by giving our children the best possible education".

The school has always believed in the centrality of the curriculum as part of the education provided to all children. Academic performance has always been high in comparison with national results, and all children make excellent progress in their personal growth, because of the breadth and challenge of their studies. This has been recognised by all external evaluators, including Ofsted, the local authority, the Archdiocese, and external consultants commissioned by the school. (See relevant reports)

From September we will return to the delivery of the National/School curriculum and Statutory EYFS Curriculum and implementation of school curriculum schemes of work. (Please see curriculum section of the school website)

DfE guidance will be followed relevant to specific subjects including music and P.E. and other practical and physical activities across the school day.

PSHCE in our school covers the new statutory requirements around Relationships Education and Health Education. Relationships and Sex Education is taught through 'Journey in Love' as approved by our Archdiocese. Parents were fully consulted in the Summer term in relation to these areas of the curriculum.

On return there will be an emphasis on assessing and supporting emotional well-being and Basic Skills and strategies including deployment of staff, resources etc to ensure rapid progress in these.

We will use 'Catch up premium' allocated to school to increase the number of hours of permanent part time teaching staff to be deployed to support initial assessment and provide basic skills intervention. This will ensure that all children make rapid progress and achieve their potential. These staff are familiar to the children and provide continuity and flexibility in the ability to be immediately responsive to changing need.

Teachers in Reception will focus on the prime areas of learning, including: communication and language, personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and physical development. Teachers will also assess and address gaps in language, early reading and mathematics, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary.

There will be a continued high focus on emotional health and well-being initiatives including our annual emotional health and well-being week moved to Autumn from Spring; Emotional Health and well-being groups and Sunbeams (bereavement).

We have contacted HBC Health Improvement Team prior to return to support relevant initiatives. Please take care everybody

Love from us all at St. Bede's.

Xx

Please refer to the school website for essential information on curriculum and policies. Please note any policies which indicate COVID-19 addendums and the new Remote Education Policy which details contingency plans as required by the DfE.

Please note that plans may be subject to amendments given any changes to government guidance and requirements. We will of course keep you updated.