

St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School
EDUCATE; CREATE; WITNESS:
CHRIST AT THE CENTRE.
Grindon Lane, Sunderland. SR4 8HP.
Head Teacher: Mrs. J. Ward



Tel. 0191 528 5094 e-mail: office@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk visit at: www.stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk

Monday 1st March 2021,

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming all our children on back to school on Monday 8th March 2021 as we come out of what we all hope will be the 'final Covid lockdown'. Let us hope and pray that the government timescales can be met, so we can all look forward to 21st June 2021 and the end to the majority of restrictions we have had to learn to live with this last year. We can all play our part by adhering to the guidance during each stage of this journey and ensure that milestone targets are met which will help us reach a return to a life of freedom from the pandemic rules and restrictions.

We appreciate that there has been so much disruption to our children's lives and it has been exceptionally challenging not only for them, but also for yourselves, having to juggle in many instances working from home and supporting your child/ren with their remote learning - you should be very proud of what you have achieved! No matter how much or little they have done, rest assured all staff in school will be working exceptionally hard to fill gaps and help children catch up whilst always remembering that Christ is at the Centre of all we do.

8th March 2021 Arrangements

We have now completed our Risk Assessment and have the arrangements for Monday the 8th March ready to share with you. Unfortunately, current guidance means school can still not be 'back to normal'. We have made some slight amendments to our rules and routines to try and allow us to maximise learning time in school as much as possible and these are outlined in this letter. Please familiarise yourself with them. These amendments will be based on revised risk assessments and continuing emphasis on hygiene and the adherence to school access arrangements and social distancing guidelines from the Department of Education. **Please note that all decisions we have made/are making have our pupils and their families' safety as paramount importance alongside ensuring children are back receiving the education they deserve.**

Bubbles:

Children will continue to be kept in class bubbles wherever this is possible and doesn't impact on children's learning. The thought process behind this is to try and limit children's interactions with each other so if a child were to test positive we would hopefully only have to isolate 1 or 2 bubbles rather than the whole school.

Staggered Starts and Collections:

This is an area we have made some amendments and which will require cooperation from all our parents. We have moved the start and finish times to try and maximise teaching time in school and to hopefully also make it easier for parents needing to get to and from work. We have also tried to reduce the number of adults on the school premises whilst also trying to get some feeling of normality back for the children and reduce mixing of children across bubbles.



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However, for this to happen it is essential that parents follow and adhere to the following guidance:

- Stick to the times and **don't arrive any earlier than your child's allocated time.**
- Don't allow your children to mix with other children from other bubbles.
- Don't stay on the school premises or the car park any longer than necessary (no conversations) to avoid congestion, this is particularly important in the car park area. **It is parents' responsibility to ensure social distancing is maintained in the car park which we appreciate can get very congested, however, this is not something we can change.**
- Park sensibly in the correct marked bays.
- Only one adult is allowed to accompany their children onto the premises.
- **Siblings must come at their allocated times rather than together (this is because it was difficult to enforce and ensure children were not mixing).**
- All adults, unless medically exempt, must wear a mask when on school premises.
- Adhere to the following drop off and collection times and information below.

Year Group	Drop Off Time	Collection Time	Additional Information- Drop off and Collection Points
Nursery	8:30 am	3:30pm	Children accompanied by parents to the Nursery Door
Reception	8:40 am	3:15pm	Children accompanied by parents to the small gate leading to the Reception area on the main yard
Year 1	8:40 am	3:25pm	Children accompanied by parents to the main school office entrance
Year 2	8:40 am	3:25pm	
Year 3	8:30am	3:15pm	Children accompanied by parents to the main school office entrance
Year 4	8:30am	3:15pm	All Year 4 to Year 6 children to be dropped off at the top entrance gate on the lane leading down to the Nursery doors. A member of staff will be on the gate for safety. Children without Walking Home Alone Agreements should be collected from the main school office. All children with Walking Home Alone Agreements will be accompanied by their teacher to main entrance gates and dismissed by their class teacher to walk to the car park/home.
Year 5	8:30 am	3:15pm	
Year 6	8:30 am	3:15pm	



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Breakfast Club and Afterschool Clubs:

Breakfast Club will be offered again from Monday 8th March. Texts have already been sent out to those parents that were currently accessing this facility before we open this up to the rest of the school. If you are interested in a place for your child/children then please contact the Office and we will see if we can accommodate this within our safety parameters of ensuring children from different bubbles don't mix.

Afterschool clubs will not be running for the foreseeable until government guidance states that bubbles can mix. This is due to our afterschool activities being mostly sport based, mixed ages and take place inside which has a much higher risk of transmission of the virus.

Lunches and Breaks:

Breaks and lunches will be staggered and children will have designated areas in the yard and the field to play according to their bubbles, again to reduce the risk of children mixing. There will be 3 meal settings: EYFS, KS1 and KS2. All EYFS and KS1 will eat in the canteen as well as KS2 children that currently access school meals. KS2 packed lunches will eat in the school hall. All children will be kept in allocated areas/tables in class bubbles to avoid mixing. We will not be using the pre-order system children will choose on the day. Please note your child cannot swap between school meals and packed lunches they must remain on one or the other for the entire half term. If you wish to change the provision your child accesses please notify the office.

Other Procedures to note:

All of the other protocols we had in place before Christmas will continue. Some of these include:

- Regular hand sanitising and washing of hands will take place during the day and upon entry and exit of school.
- Children should bring in a water bottle each day which should then be taken home to be washed and refilled.
- No school bags or other unnecessary items to brought in.
- All packed lunches must be disposable, including bags.
- Coats, hats and gloves may be brought in to school. Please ensure these are labelled. Children can bring a spare pair of shoes and socks into school in case of bad weather. These will be quarantined in teacher's cupboards and should remain in school for the remainder of the term.
- Children should continue to come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE days. Staff will notify you of these days if there are any changes. Please note the hall will be unavailable for PE for the next three weeks, so PE will be weather dependent as it will need to take place outside.
- Reading books or any other resources going home will need to be returned to school on set days so they can be quarantined before being sent home again.
- As per government guideline attendance is mandatory from 8th March 2021 for all children and we are required to follow our usual attendance policy working alongside Astar attendance.
- If any family displays symptoms the usual process still applies. Any children required to self-isolate will be provided with remote learning.



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Lateral Flow Testing:

Staffs in school now have access to Lateral Flow Testing (LFT). Staff opting to take part in the scheme will be asked to carry out LFT from home twice each week. The purpose of these tests is to identify asymptomatic carriers and reduce the rate of transmission. We see this as a positive step for all of our school in giving greater protection from the spread of Covid-19 across the school.

Curriculum and Remote Learning:

Upon returning to the school we will once again be focussing on identifying gaps. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the home learning this lockdown and engagement had been much higher. The priority is to have our children return to school and settle into daily routines again and provide the necessary support for their emotional and social wellbeing. We will not be operating a restricted curriculum, as always we will be offering a broad and balanced curriculum but we will focus on identifying the key aspects that your children need as a foundation moving forward with their education.

Finally, can I ask that we keep in our prayers the whole St Cuthbert's Community; the bereaved, the sick and infirm, Mrs Ward and her family and anyone suffering from the social and emotional impact of isolation during this period. I would ask that we all look out for each other and support each other through these difficult times. Economic and financial hardship is a contributory factor to the stresses within our families – please be reassured that support is available and school can help. If you need to talk about any issues in confidence, please feel free to contact the school on 0191 5285094 or email us at office@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk.

As always I want to thank you for your support and understanding in this difficult period. Hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel though and we are now through the worse. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Steele
Acting Head Teacher

