



The Christus Catholic Trust

working in partnership for the benefit of the children and communities we serve

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Respect Ourselves, Respect
Others, Respect our School,
Love God

13.07.2020

Dear Parents/Carers

September 2020 return to school.

We have been making plans for the children's return to school in September. These arrangements are based on the latest Government guidance, which is subject to change. Should there be any more developments, we will inform you via the school website or email.

From September, all children will have to attend school all day.
It is no longer optional for parents to keep their children at home.

Please note that the first day of term for Nursery and years 1,2,3,4,5, and 6 will be **Thursday 3rd September.**

The new Reception class will start school on Monday 7th September. This is to allow the main school to return and settle before the new children begin.

Bubbles

In September we will be operating 'Bubbles' which will be year group based, so all the pupils in a particular year group will be educated together in a class.

It will not be possible to socially distance when all the children return but we will minimise movement around the classrooms and around the school building. Children will be able to mix with other children in their Bubble, but close contact will be discouraged. Bubbles will not be mixing.

In class, children will all sit facing the front maintaining a 2 metre distance from adults including the teacher. Children will have access to limited learning resources, which will be cleaned daily. In Reception class and Nursery, the children will not sit at tables facing the front as it is impossible to do this each day for such young children. It would also inhibit the EYFS curriculum to do this as such young children learn through play. Regular handwashing will continue throughout the day. Break time and lunch times will be staggered to prevent bubbles from mixing together.

Staggered timings will also operate at the beginning and end of the school day with different drop off and collection times.

As the children have been away from direct teaching for so long, the curriculum will be tailored to address the learning gaps that have been created during the summer term.



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P.E. will take place as usual so please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school.

With the change of the guidelines, from September, children may bring in a packed lunch as the change in the guidelines permits this.

Should your child want a school dinner then they will be available in the same way they were before Lockdown. The cost per day payable in advance is £2.30. Children will eat their lunch in the dining hall with their Bubble. Year groups will be staggered to allow for clear spacing in the seating arrangements.

Please note that the office will not be able to accept any late packed lunches so please ensure there is enough money on your account to cover any dinner expenses.

Tuck shop

As the mixing of year groups is not permitted, we will not be able to run the Tuck shop and so children may bring in a piece of fruit for their mid-morning snack.

Water bottles to be labelled with child's name and brought in each day.

Starting and ending the school day:

The arrangements for the beginning and end of the school day are as follows:

Please note the changes in times and places of entry/leaving which have been made so that we do not have too many children in one area. You are asked to stick to your times and to avoid congregating outside the school gate. Please ensure that only one adult accompanies a family to school to prevent congestion.

Nursery:

Nursery to arrive between **8.20 am until 8.30 am**, entering through the **Nursery gate** on Dock Road. Children to be collected as usual at **11.30am or 3.30 pm** depending on session.

Reception class:

Reception class to arrive between **8.45 am and 8.55 am**, using the **Nursery gate**. Children to be collected at **3.10 pm** through the **Nursery gate**.

Year 6

To enter through the **green gate** on Calcutta Road at **8.30 am** and leave at **3 pm**.

Year 5

To enter through the **green gate** on Calcutta Road at **8.40 am** and leave at **3.10pm**.

Year 4

To enter through the **green gate** on Calcutta Road at **8.50 am** and leave at **3.20pm**.

Year 3

To enter through the **main school (black) gates** at **8.30 am** and leave at **3 pm**.

Year 2

To enter through the **main school (black) gates** to arrive at **8.40 am** and leave at **3.10 pm**.

Year 1

To enter through the **main school (black) gates** to arrive at **8.50 am** and leave at **3.20 pm**.

Breakfast Club

From September the Breakfast club will no longer run due to the mixing of year groups, this will be reviewed again after October half term or earlier should the guidelines change.

After-School Clubs

After school club provision will be extremely limited due to cross contamination of pupils and staff. We can offer one club only for each bubble in years 6, 5 and 4. Information regarding clubs will be issued in September but they will all be sports based.

Free School Meal Provision

If you think you may qualify for free school meals for your child, not Universal Free School Meals which all pupils in Reception year 1 and 2 are eligible to receive, then please click on the link to make an application to Thurrock Local Authority

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-meals/free-school-meals>

Safety

Please note that the cleaning of the school has to be carried out between sessions and before/after school, so your child will need to be dropped off and collected promptly. Parents/Carers are asked not to congregate at the school gates but to maintain social distancing at all times.

Children are to enter the school grounds in their year groups and not in mixed groups. This is very important as the children will need to do this during the school day. Please note that no adults will be permitted to come onto school site for any reason. Any communication with school is to be via email or phone call and not in person.

No one is to enter the lobby to speak in person to the office staff or to drop anything off. This is to protect my staff and of course yourselves.

We understand that the children might feel a range of emotions at returning to school but from our experience of those children who have already returned, they are very good at adapting to different situations and will soon settle.

Once they are back into a routine and see the staff and their classmates again, any worry will soon disappear.

Thank you, Parents/Carers for your cooperation.

Best wishes



M Jones
Headteacher