



St Charles RC Primary School  
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16/07/2020

Dear parents,

### **Re-opening School: Developing Plans for Re-opening our School Safely**

First of all, I would like to share my immense pride in how our school community has come together over the past weeks and months after our wonderful school was forced to close amid the Coronavirus outbreak. We have proven yet again, the power of working together and cooperation in being able to respond to any problem that comes our way. I cannot thank you all enough for your support of our school and the wider community during this challenging time. Thank you also for your engagement with Google Classroom, we have added some resources for the Summer holidays if you need them. Please be aware teacher emails will close down for the Summer.

As we prepare for the next stage of our response to the pandemic, I do not doubt that we will respond in the way we have done so far; with the utmost dedication and care to everyone in our school community.

I feel the best way to share our plans for re-opening is to first attempt to address some of the common questions that I am sure every parent/carer has since the government announced the plans to re-open schools. I will answer each question using bullet points to ensure that we can provide concise answers to these questions. These questions cover the following areas and can be referenced as you wish.

1. Summary of guidance relating to available scientific advice;
2. Social distancing in school;
3. New class groups;
4. Cleaning plans for our school;
5. Timetable and curriculum changes;
6. The planned use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
7. Lunch arrangements;
8. Attendance.

### **Does St Charles RC Primary School think it is the right time to re-open schools fully in September?**

- Yes.
- The phased re-opening of schools has prepared us well for the wider opening of our school in September.
- We are confident in the processes we have in place as well as being able to 'upscale' these when all children return in September.
- The new DfE guidance permits groups of classes of children and has removed the requirement for social distancing within these groups. This will allow all children to return in September.
- Regular hand washing and staggered break and lunchtimes will need to remain but these can be timetabled effectively into the school day.

### **What does the guidance say about the transmission of the virus in schools?**

- It is important to remember that COVID-19 has only been in existence for only a few months and the scientific data is not completely robust and is changing as the scientific community finds out more about the virus.
- However, DfE guidance is based on the following scientific principles:
  - The rate of transmission of the virus is very low between children; especially children under the age of 6.
  - Children are less likely to pass the virus from one child to another child or a child to an adult.
  - Adults are more likely to pass the virus to other adults and this will need to be factored into the planning.
  - It is thought to take at least 15 minutes of close contact with an infected person for the virus to pass to another person.
  - The virus can last for up to 6 days on surfaces. Additional cleaning is essential to ensure that any places in which the virus can live are significantly reduced.
- When planning for the re-opening of our school, safety planning will be based on the current and changing scientific principles and will be under constant review.

#### **Will you be able to socially distance our children?**

- **I feel it is important to be clear that social distancing of children is impossible in schools.**
- Children naturally gravitate towards each other and we also need to weigh up the impact of enforcing children to stay away from each other with their mental health and well-being. I have seen this first-hand with my children.
- Instead, our plans will be focused on promoting social distancing between children.
- We aim to do this by changing the classroom layouts, making sure that children only have access to a set of personal school equipment that must not be shared with others and staggering play and lunchtimes.
- We will also be working hard to socially distance groups or 'bubbles' of children from other 'bubbles' of children.

#### **Will my child be in their normal class when they return?**

- Yes they will.
- The children will be in their class group and we will be working hard to maintain the integrity of these groups throughout the school day.
- Each group will arrive at school at different times, have different playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Our teachers are working hard to create groups of children based on friendship groups as we know that seeing friends is important for our children's mental health.

#### **Will before and after school clubs be able to open?**

- **There will be no Teapots in Autumn term** so that we do not mix children from different bubbles
- **If you need wraparound childcare, please contact PlayKidds on Moorside Rd 0161 728 1671 mobile 07828890735 info@playkidds.co.uk which is our nearest childcare provider, or we can signpost you to some trusted child minders**
- We are planning to open our Breakfast Club and After School provision from January 2021.
- More information will be sent to parents/carers when we return in September.

#### **How do you plan to clean school?**

- The cleaning of our school will increase to cope with the demands of ensuring that we promote a 'COVID Secure' environment.
- Each class will also be provided with antibacterial wipes to ensure the regular cleaning of surfaces between usage.
- At the end of each day and every time an indoor space is used by a different group of children, the learning space will be cleaned by our cleaning team.

### **How will you promote additional handwashing and personal hygiene?**

- As soon as the children come into school, they will need to wash their hands with hand sanitiser at one of the hand sanitising stations.
- We will schedule regular handwashing sessions in school for all children and will provide hand sanitiser for use throughout the day for children and adults.

### **Will my child need to wear a mask?**

- No.
- Your child is not required or encouraged to wear a mask and data suggests that using a mask could increase the chances of passing on the virus, especially in children as it promotes people touching their faces more often.
- Instead, we will be promoting excellent respiratory hygiene.
- Our children will be taught ways we can 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.
- We have purchased pedal bins with lids and all bins will be emptied regularly.

### **Will the adults in school wear masks or other forms of personal protective equipment (PPE)?**

- Adults in school will not routinely wear masks or other forms of PPE when in school.
- There will be times when we will insist that PPE will be worn by staff and these are shared below:
  - Anytime an adult is required to be close contact with your child including administering first aid or providing personal care.
  - When a pupil or adult displays symptoms of the COVID-19.
- Our children will be taught what PPE means and that is there to protect everyone in the school. This will become a normal part of school life until the virus threat has gone.

### **What will my child eat for lunch?**

- In September, we are hoping to be able to offer a normal school lunch service in the children's classrooms which includes our normal hot options for our children.
- Parents are free to provide a packed lunch for their child, but we would insist that this is fully disposable where possible to eliminate any unnecessary surfaces to which the virus can live.

### **What will my child be taught?**

- During the autumn term, our teachers will be focusing on the following key aspects of our curriculum:
  - Religious Education
  - Reading
  - Writing, Maths and Science (Core Subjects)
  - PSHCE including mental wellbeing
  - Physical Education
  - The Arts
  - Humanities
- We will be carefully assessing the children upon their full return in September and tailoring support they need based on their individual needs.

### **Will my child be required to wear a uniform?**

- Yes, your child will still be required to wear full uniform when they return to school in September.
- Clothes should be changed as soon as the children get home and kept clean.
- Fridays will be non-uniform in the Autumn term.

### **Does my child have to come to school?**

- Yes, from September 2020, attendance for all pupils is compulsory.
- **School will close after lunch at 1.00pm on Friday** during the Autumn term, so that we can deep clean the school and our teachers can take PPA time, as we will have no external providers entering the building.

### Where will I drop off and pick up my child and how will I know?

- **For siblings, drop offs and pick-ups are at the YOUNGEST CHILD'S time and gate**
- In September, we will be extending the drop-off and pick up times each day. Only one parent/carer over the age of 18 can bring their children onto the school site.
- All drop offs and pickups are to take place at the gates assigned – Only one parent/carer to drop off and pick up
- Social Distancing to be maintained by parents at gate or in the playground

| Year group            | Entry point                                     | Drop off time | Afternoon Pick up Time                                    |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Nursery and Reception | Nursery and Reception playground                | 9.00am        | 3.00pm from Main car park gate<br><b>12.30pm Fridays</b>  |
| Year 1 and 2          | Key Stage 1 playground (near Year 1 and 2 door) | 9.15am        | 3.15pm from KS1 playground gate<br><b>12.45pm Fridays</b> |
| Year 3 and 4          | Key Stage 2 playground (near Year 3 and 4 door) | 9.30am        | 3.30pm from KS1 playground gate<br><b>1.00pm Fridays</b>  |
| Year 5 and 6          | Moorside car park entrance                      | 9.30am        | 3.30pm from Moorside car park<br><b>1.00pm Fridays</b>    |

### A prayer for our school

Dear God,

We give you our school.

We give you all the teachers and staff who work here,

We give you all the children who study here.

We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,

A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

I am sending all my love and prayers to your and your family and the people you care about. Charley and I can't wait to see you and the rest of our school family again. You are all in my thoughts, in my prayers and in my heart always. Finally, **THANK YOU!** Thank you for your support of our school as we begin the journey towards being back together again. St Charles Borromeo pray for us.

God bless,

*C. Campbell*



Dr C Campbell and Charley

Headteacher

**As a family of God, we love to learn and learn to love**