



27th August 2020

Nearly time to come back!

We are all looking forward to seeing the children back in school next week after such a turbulent time this year. You will have read and seen so many things in the media about schools and safety. At St Bede's we are continuing to do all we can to make the site as safe as possible and continually seek advice and support from the Local Authority and published guidance from the Department for Education.

In July we sent out a letter to all parents and published it on the school website with the arrangements for returning, we would like to go over a few brief points to help you.

- We are going to be concentrating on a recovery plan which will initially focus on the mental health of the children so that they feel secure in school. Alongside this we will be working with the children to re-establish the correct attitude for learning. Assessments of academic needs will come next when the children are ready.

Arrival and collection times are on the letter sent out in July which is also on the school website.

- The new Nursery, Reception and Year 1 have received letters from their teachers that explain how they are to begin the new school year.
- The children who were in school throughout partial closure in Years 2-6 will attend full time from Wednesday 2nd September.
- The children in Years 2-6 who have been home learning throughout the partial closure will begin a phased return on Wednesday 2nd September with full time attendance expected from week beginning Monday 7th September. They have been allocated a group either A or B, this information was sent out in July.

Social distancing on the school site.

- To minimise the numbers of adults on the school site we expect that only one adult brings a family of children to school. It would be advantageous to share school drop of and collection if possible e.g. cousins could come with one family member.
- Catholic Row and the Church car park will **not** be open for school parking. This is a safety measure as all children will be accessing by foot through Catholic Row. Children are also not to bring bikes and scooters to school for the first half term as we assess the new measures.
- If your child is booked in for B n T then the staff car park can be used with great caution and cars are to be reverse parked. If drivers fail to follow these guidelines they will be asked to park on Ridge Terrace. The car park will be open between 7.30am - 8.10am then after 3.45pm children to enter the out of school club via the hall door with parents ensuring they socially distance. These sessions **must** be pre booked.
- Dogs are not to be brought onto the school site whether they are walking or being carried.

There is a one way system in place which reverses for collection. There are to be **no children** using the access gates at the St Benet Biscop side of school. Please see July's information sheet for diagrams.

For the foreseeable future parents will need to telephone or email school to discuss any issues, we do not have the capacity for face to face meetings until the children are settled into routines – this includes the school office. Thank you for your understanding with this.

When the children come to school they will need to bring their reading book and their named school water bottle (not branded water bottles).

There are to be no bags brought to school apart from a Wednesday when they will need PE kits. This begins on Wednesday 9th September.

Lunches in the Autumn term will again be via our catering providers at St Benet Biscop Academy and will be ordered on the iPayimpact system. Most children will eat in their classrooms to maintain the bubble system. Please ensure that you have registered your child for iPayimpact as we are no longer using Schoolcomms for lunches.

If for any reason your children is unable to have a school lunch they may bring a packed lunch. This needs to be in a zipped packed lunch bag that will be stored in the classroom.

Should you believe that your child is entitled to Free School Meals please contact the Local Authority via their Website https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Free_School_Meals This also applies to children in Years Rec, One and Two even though they receive Universal Free School Meals. School can access other funding for use in school if your child is registered.

Thank you for your understanding at this tricky time.

There will be some things that need to be adapted as we move forward and we will continue to update you. Our priority is to have the children in school, that they feel safe and that you all feel secure in our safety measures.

Tuesday 1st September is a staff training day when we will be finalising plans and organisation. There are no children in school on Tuesday.

Should you have any queries please email the school admin account on admin@st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk or ring school from Tuesday 1st September. There is no guaranteed that there will be an answer before Tuesday. Please do not use Messenger to communicate with school as this is not always monitored.

With kind permission from the author we have been able to share the story The Invisible String by Patrice Karst on our Facebook page.

It would be great if you could read the book it with your child to help reassure them for the return to school. Those children who are joining us for the first time will benefit too.

We will be using this idea in school to help children with any separation anxieties they may have over the coming weeks.

