



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities



St Catherine's C of E School

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Autumn 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we are drawing near to the start of our autumn term, now is a good time to remind everyone of the precautions we are putting in place for our safe return on September 7th. These have been designed following the government and Department for Education guidelines which we must adhere to in order to minimise risk in school.

For information on these guidelines the following links are useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=7b79578a-b994-42f8-99a7-71284c6a13db&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

We understand that the staggered start times are not very easy to manage, this is true from our end too, however, until guidelines change we will have to manage this as best we can. We really encourage parents and families to support each other as a possible solution. Breakfast club will be back up and running – starting at 8am only. We are also trying to arrange after school clubs to start from the second week of term. We will closely monitor government advice updates and hope that we will be able to return to our normal routines as soon as possible.

Below are the operational aspects to our full return that enable us to adhere to the government guidance for safe reopening:

- **Staggered start and finish times** will be used as per the government guidance, to reduce congestion and therefore the mixing of too many adults at these times. We ask that you stick to these times and support this through remaining outside of the school gates until your child's allotted times. We understand this can be tricky with siblings so encourage you to work with each other to manage this. We have also put the Year 6 at the latest time as many of them walk and can wait sensibly on the wall outside as they have done

this term. As previously we ask that where possible older children enter alone to go to their class door, only one adult per family if not and that when unavoidable, younger siblings are not roaming free in the school grounds. Please do not congregate at the school gates. The Police station has continued to allow us to use their overflow carpark during drop off and pick up times to ease parking. The government is strongly encouraging families to walk to school where possible or park and walk when not. We have reduced the lunchtimes to ensure that the staggered times do not shorten the teaching time for children. Infants should enter and line up to the left as you enter the school, juniors should enter to the right and up around the rear of the school. Please follow signage and one-way systems. Older children will be expected to line up on social distanced spaces outside of their classrooms. Again, we are sorry but parents cannot be admitted to the building and will need to drop promptly to maintain social distancing for the next in line to drop or collect.

Times:

Nursery: 9.00-3.00

Reception: 8.40 – 2.55 *(Please note – the first week will be a transition week detailed in a separate letter)*

Year 1: 8.50 – 3.05

Year 2: 9.00-3.15

Year 3: 8.40-2.55

Year 4: 8.50-3.05

Year 5: 9.00-3.15

Year 6: 9.10-3.25

- **Communication with the teacher** will be harder as we are used to those drop off/pick up conversations with teachers. However, with the need for prompt dropping and collecting to observe the 10-minute slots and maintain social distancing, this will not be feasible. If you need to talk to a teacher, please use Dojo to arrange a phone conversation to discuss any issues. Parents will not be able to congregate on the school grounds or outside the school gates. Parents will continue to access the school office by appointment only.
- **Breakfast Club** will be open again as previously. This must still be pre-booked and paid for via School Money and will run from 8am. After 8.30 there will be no entry to breakfast club. Breakfast can only be served between 8 and 8.15. Parents will need to ring the external door and wait with their child until they are collected from the door by a staff member. The staff member will sign the child in. Before your child can attend for the first time an updated breakfast club form will need to be completed with correct contact details and allergy/medical information on.
- **Lunches** will also be run on a staggered timetable to reduce the contact between bubbles in the school hall. Chartwells, our catering company, will be resuming a hot food service. This will be free to all pupils up until the end of Year 2 and £2.30 a meal for all other year groups unless your child is entitled to Free School Meals. Dinners will need to be ordered and paid for on our School Money system for the week, by 12 noon on Sundays. New menus will be issued separately. For those children choosing to bring a packed lunch, these will need to be brought in a clearly named plastic lunchbox. (No canvas type bags please). All pupils will need a named water bottle.
- **Breaktimes** – children will play in zoned areas, at staggered times, within their class bubbles.
- **Uniform** – children will be expected to wear uniform. Current government guidance says this does not need to be changed more frequently than normal or washed in any special way. To ease transitions and enable us to use the school field for more space for bubbles,

we'd like all children to come in trainers and not formal school shoes. This we also feel may reduce financial burdens on families who are still furloughed or not working. The children will need a raincoat in every day as we will be outside every day.

- **Equipment** – the children will be allowed a school bag but it is advisable to purchase one that is easy to wash frequently. The children will only need to bring their lunch and reading book so a small bag is preferable or just a book bag. They must not bring in equipment, toys or pencil cases from home. When returning reading books, the class staff will show children where to place the books and issue new ones.
- **PE kit** – children will need a pair of jogging trousers and sweatshirt in grey or black. They will generally have their PE on one afternoon a week so that there will be no mixing of bubbles in the outside or hall spaces and the coaches we employ will only work with them that afternoon. **To make things simpler, we ask that the children come to school in their kits for their PE day.**

For the first half of Autumn Term PE days are allocated as:

Reception: Wednesday

Year 1: Monday and Friday

Year 2: Monday and Friday

Year 3: Tuesday

Year 4: Thursday

Year 5: Monday

Year 6: Wednesday

- **Curriculum Information** - The school staff will be able to move freely between bubbles. Intervention groups and after school clubs should be able to run again. However, staff will maintain social distancing and avoid contact wherever possible. Pupils will be going up to the next year group as usual. The school curriculum, although focusing on core subjects and catch up where required, will still be broad and balanced giving children experiences in all foundation subjects.
- **Classroom Set-up** - There will be some changes to the layout of classrooms and children will not be working in grouped tables facing inwards. They will instead be working in forward facing rows. Equipment will be limited, especially soft furnishings and will be washed frequently. The classrooms will be cleaned throughout the day with our cleaners attending at lunchtime to clean communal areas such as toilets.
- **After School Clubs** will resume from the second week of term. A separate letter detailing these will be sent out in the first week back.

A reminder, that from September, the government and the Department for Education have stated that attendance in school is again compulsory. We will resume our normal procedures for recording absence. Please note, due to the extended absence of all children, term-time holidays cannot be authorised.

At the forefront of our approach to the return will be children's well-being, identifying and addressing gaps in learning and resuming school life as quickly as possible.

The COVID-19 risk assessment has been updated and is available on the website. https://www.stcatherinescofe.co.uk/web/september_updates/500702

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Louise Hussey

Executive Headteacher

Pippa Warner

Head of School