

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Parent(s), Carer(s)

The Department for Education released full guidance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 for the re-opening of schools to all children from September 2020. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school. Corpus Christi School has followed this guidance and planned carefully for how to make our school as safe and secure as possible for all children, staff and families.

Our aim is to ensure that Corpus Christi School feels and remains as familiar as possible. However, in order to be fully compliant with the Department for Education guidance, there will have to be some changes. These changes are outlined below with reference to the guidance from Department for Education but are subject to change. This guidance can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

### **Staggered Start and Finish times**

To ensure that we minimise the risk of congestion and to maintain social distancing, school start time for Reception to Year 6 will be a window from 8:45am until 9:00am. At the end of the day, collection time will also be a window between 3:00pm and 3:15pm. Parents and children are asked to wait, socially distanced, outside their designated Year group gates at the beginning of the school day. Teachers will meet children at the gates during these times.

### **School Gates**

Each Year group will have their own school gate, this will be the only entry and exit point for that Year group. The Department for Education has also stated that parents are not allowed on the school site without an appointment. This means that parents are asked to drop their child at the designated gate for their year group and leave promptly so as not to gather around the school gates. Further guidance about Year group specific gates will be sent to you before September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Hand and respiratory hygiene**

All members of our school community must follow the policy of washing hands at specific times throughout the school day and also when needed. There are new sinks and hand gel dispensers located at various points around the school to facilitate large groups of children and staff staying as safe as possible. We will also follow the NHS guidance, 'Catch it, bin it, kill it,' for coughs and sneezes.

### **Communication with Staff**

Please note that class teachers and teaching assistants will not be available for a conversation at drop off and pick up time, so any parent concerns must be emailed to the both the office and your child's class teacher.

### **Consistent groups of children**

In order to keep children and staff as safe as possible, the Department for Education has advised that children remain in distinct groups throughout the school day. At Corpus Christi School, children will remain within their class pods when inside the building. During playtime and lunchtime, when the children will be outside, these pods will be expanded to form phase group bubbles of EYFS, Infants, Lower Juniors and Upper Juniors. These Phase group bubbles will eat separately and play within their own phase group playground.

### **Curriculum Expectations**

From September, Corpus Christi School will continue to teach a broad and ambitious curriculum, with a wide range of subjects. Alongside this, the Department for Education has recommended that when all children return to school, there is a particular emphasis on reading and pupil wellbeing. Corpus Christi School has timetabled daily sessions with each of these as priorities. All schools have also been asked by the Department for Education to address any gaps in learning following home schooling. We will be assessing all children in the first few weeks of the autumn term to see what individual children's needs are and to put in place specific teaching and catch up support.

### **Online Learning**

In order to be prepared for any local lockdowns, pupil shielding, or school bubble isolation, the Department for Education has advised that all schools are expected to have an online curriculum available. We will be training the children in how to access Google Classroom to prepare for the possible eventuality of remote learning. This is something that we have been trialling at school already. To support this, following the training, homework will only be set online. This will also reduce the frequency of resources being shared between home and school.

### **Classroom equipment**

The Department for Education guidance states that unnecessary sharing of equipment should be avoided and that children should bring minimal equipment from home into school each day. To ensure that your child has their own school equipment, please can you provide a named pencil case with

- Named pencil
- Named ruler
- Named colour pencils
- Named Fountain Pen (Juniors)
- Eraser and sharpener

This pencil case should be left in school to ensure that it is always ready for their learning. Children may bring in their own reading book and water bottle from home. School reading scheme books will also still go home.

### **Uniform**

Children are now permitted to wear uniform and will need to return in their winter uniform from September, please see the school website for winter uniform details.

### **Extended Care**

We will be able to offer Breakfast Club and After School Club from September for Years 1 -6 **only**. We are planning for this to begin from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September and you will receive a survey monkey on this in the next few days. These clubs will be organised in phase group bubbles to mirror how the children are kept within consistent groups during the school day. Unfortunately, at this time, the school does not have the staffing or premises capacity to offer any other after school activity clubs. We will also be able to offer a Saturday morning performing arts club, consistent with the school's arrangements.

### **Summer holiday activities**

We look forward to seeing children at Mr. Brady's summer holiday sports camp. There are also a range of other summer activities including two schemes – one funded by the Mayor and one by Lambeth. Both have a very good range of activities.

### **Support from parents**

We want to say a big thank you to all our families and our school staff for all the work that they have done for the children since March. We appreciate this has been a challenging time for everyone. Also many thanks for the kind donations that parents have made to the school over the last six months which is very much appreciated by everyone here at Corpus Christi.

We have created a **Wellbeing** tab on your child's year group page so that you can access the many resources online that offer support for you and your family's mental health and wellbeing. You will find a mix of stories, videos, website links and resources under the following headings: younger children, older children and parents. There are also links to a range of resources on mental well-being on our website.

<https://corpuschristischool.co.uk/parents/world-mental-health-day-wednesday-10th-october-2019>

We wish all our children and families a restful, happy and safe summer break and we look forward to see you all in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J. Connery

Co-Headteacher

Mr R. Coyle

Co-Headteacher