**SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School**



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Dear Parents/Carers,

**Reopening of school to all pupils Wednesday 2nd September**

I hope that and your families are well and have had a restful summer break.

The staff and I are very much looking forward to seeing our children and families again tomorrow and resuming school life again.

This letter should be read alongside the letter sent back in July (which has been forwarded again) regarding detailed arrangements around school reopening. There is so much information to take on board, but it is important to read everything, in order to be as fully informed as possible and to keep our children, staff and school community safe.

1. **System of Controls**

As you are aware, our priority in returning to school will be implementing a range of health and safety measures including the following:

* Class ‘Bubbles’ to keep groups of children together
* Staggered drop off and collection times to avoid large groups meeting
* Regular handwashing, hand sanitisers and tissues and in classrooms to be used before and after sessions
* Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
* Cleaning products in classrooms and an enhanced cleaning rota

Children will be taught about these controls on the first day and reminded about these regularly to maintain a healthy and safe school environment.

**In the circumstance that a child or a member of staff who has been in school tests positive for Covid19, the guidance below will be followed. Government guidance is** [Here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).

**Attached is an each flow diagram showing the actions to take if your child shows Covid-19 symptoms.**

1. **Pastoral Care**

I appreciate that a return to school may be an anxious and unsettling time for some children, particularly those who have not been here for a number of months now. Please be assured that we understand these anxieties and that we will be doing everything we can to support children in the move to their new class. We will be focusing on transition and nurturing activities for the first couple of weeks and be dedicating time to give children opportunities to reflect and talk about the last few months. The mental health and wellbeing of our children has and always will be our priority. Please find the attached the ‘Children Commissioner’s guide: ‘Going back to school’ and ‘Returning to School: What parents need to know’ to support your child.

1. **Attendance**

Full-time attendance from September is compulsory for all pupils and it is expected that all pupils who are well will attend school every day. This includes families who are currently shielding. Usual rules on attendance will apply including parents’ duty to secure that their child attends, schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and absence and the issue of sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct. If your child receives specialist health care, which makes them particularly vulnerable to infection, please speak to your doctor or consultant to seek further guidance about their return to school. Any relevant information should then be passed to your child’s teacher. **It is imperative that any pupil with COVID-19 symptoms does not attend school and that school is informed immediately**. Absence should be reported in the usual way by telephoning the school, before 8.30am.

A letter from Birmingham City Council Legal Intervention Team regarding attendance is attached.

The government guidance regarding Attendance can be found [Here](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)

1. **PPE**

PPE is not compulsory in Primary schools with the exception of a First Aider who is dealing with a child who is unwell. However, if a pupil or a member of staff wishes to wear PPE (e.g. due to health reasons) they can. The current DfE guidance does not recommend that primary school children wear masks, as wearing one incorrectly can actually increase the risk of infection, please click this link for the guidance [Here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe). If a pupil wears a mask on their journey to school, it must be removed at the gate and placed into a fully resealable plastic bag and a new, clean mask must then be worn. It is the responsibility of the pupil to look after any PPE brought into school and it must not be disposed of on the school premises, it must be put in the plastic bag and taken home. Further government guidance with respect to PPE in primary schools is ongoing.

1. **Curriculum**

Supporting the emotional well-being through various planned lessons will be a priority on the children’s return. In addition, we are well aware that there will be gaps in learning and therefore, we will be working hard with children and parents to close some of those gaps in learning over the coming months. We will be providing a broad and balanced curriculum, but with a focus on the core subjects of English and Math’s. Lesson delivery, marking and homework will all have to be adapted in light of the Coronavirus pandemic and things may look different to previous. We ask parents to be understanding of these changes and work with the school in these still yet challenging circumstances.

1. **Behaviour and Expectations**

We pride ourselves on our outstanding standards of behavior, as noted during our last Ofsted inspection and our children rarely let us down. Our current school rules will still be the same. However, it is important to inform all parents that we shall be operating a ‘zero tolerance’ approach to any conduct or behaviour that puts the health and safety of a child or a member of staff at risk.

1. **Uniform**

To maintain our school uniqueness and high standards we expect all children to return in school uniform. Please visit our school website <https://www.stjonmon.bham.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform> for our Uniform Policy. Please note summer uniform is permitted up until October half term.

1. **Travel to School**

Please read the attached ‘Back to School Travel Kit’ from Travel West Midlands. This contains important information about how to support schools and the environment in travelling to and from schools.

**Other important things to note**

* The school office will be closed. All communication will be via phone call on 0121 464-5868 or via email [enquiries@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk)
* Children will be limited to bringing in coats, lunch boxes and reading book/diaries into school only (please do not send anything else into school)
* For the first two weeks, children will be eating lunch in their classrooms. (Please note school lunches will only be of the sandwiches variety)
* PE will take place from week beg 7th Sept. This will give parents a chance to wash all kit which was left in school pre-school closure
* Breakfast Club will not be available for the first two weeks (to be reviewed)
* After School Clubs will not be available for the first half term
* All parents will be required to read and sign a Home/School Agreement for Covid-19 and return it to school (Attached). This may be done electronically.

Please note any protocols are in line with government guidelines and are subject to change.

If you have, any queries please email the school office at [enquiries@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk) and these will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

The staff of SS John and Monica’s and myself are thoroughly looking forward to reuniting our family of SS John and Monica’s and being together as a school community again.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. M.Elliott

Head Teacher