



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Doing our best for God

Devonshire Road, Bispham, Blackpool FY2 0AJ

Tel: 01253 353641

www.st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk

5th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon everyone. After much consultation with the Governors, Diocese, Local Authority and the staff, I am now in a position to inform you of the procedures ready for our children returning to school in September.

Links for support: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/returning-school-after-lockdown>

[Guidance for full opening of schools.](#)

As in line with government guidelines, the following arrangements will be put in place.

Arrangements

- Your child will be taught a broad range of subjects. There will be a focus on supporting your child where there maybe gaps in their learning as well as curriculum learning for the year group that your child is in. There will also be pastoral support for your child.
- All children will be in their normal classes. Years 2 - 6 will have their tables facing forward with two children to a desk.
- Reception and Year 1 will have their normal layout in place, as it is important to continue with the continuous learning approach. Shared resources will be sanitised each evening and children will have more opportunities to have focussed activities where there is less chance for movement within the classroom.
- Each Year group effectively becomes a Year bubble. They will have their own zoned area for breaks supervised by their Teacher and Teaching Assistants.
- Each child in Years 2-6 will have their own wallet with individual resources on their table. Any shared resources will be sanitised each evening.
- We ask that **no bags or other items, including show and tell for the younger children**, to be brought into school for any child. Only a water bottle (please **ensure the bottle has the sport cap and not the screw cap**), small hand sanitize, small packet of tissues and packed lunch bag/box, if necessary. Each child will be provided with an A4 plastic zipped wallet where they will be able to keep their diary/reading book and homework. We appreciate that the new Reception parents will have purchased a school bag but we hope this will be a temporary measure and they will of course need a school bag for the future.



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- We will ask that on specific PE days (communicated separately), children will come to school in a **plain black pair of joggers**, white T shirt, school jumper and trainers – Velcro style for those children who cannot tie their laces independently. We will send home the PE kits, left in school, on the first day the children return in September.

Reception and Year 1 - Their staggered arrival and departure times are **8.45 – 8.50 am and 3.05 pm – 3.10 pm**. Please can I ask you to drop off and pick up from the **main double gates** located at the front of the school and not the smaller side entrances. Staff members will be there at the beginning and end of the school day to receive and pass over your children. (Reception parents also have a separate letter, as the children's attendance for the first three weeks in school is slightly different).

Years 2 and Year 3 – Their staggered arrival and departure times are **8.55 am – 9.00 am and 3.15 pm - 3.20 pm**. Please can I ask you to drop off and pick up from the **main double gates** located at the front of the school and not the smaller side entrances. Staff members will be there at the beginning and end of the school day to receive and pass over your children.

Year 4 - Their staggered arrival and departure times are **8.40 am – 8.45 am and 3.05 - 3.10 pm**. Please can I ask you to drop off and pick up from the **back entrance** to St Bernadette's. Staff members will be there at the beginning and end of the school day to receive and pass over your children.

Year 5 - Their staggered arrival and departure times are **8.50 am – 8.55 am and 3.15 - 3.20 pm**. Please can I ask you to drop off and pick up from the **back entrance** to St Bernadette's. Staff members, will be there at the beginning and the end of the school day to receive and pass over your children.

Year 6 - Their staggered arrival and departure times are **8.45 am – 8.50 am and 3.10 - 3.15 pm**. Please can I ask you to drop off and pick up from the **back entrance** to St Bernadette's. Staff will be there at the beginning and the end of the school day to receive and pass over your children.

We have arranged the staggered times so that if you have more than one child attending school, there is no more than 5 minutes waiting time between the different staggered times.



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Daily procedures:

- There will be a strict hygiene code within each class and around the school which will involve much handwashing and cleaning of individually used resources.
- Government advice is that children/staff in school do not need to wear face masks. If government advice changes, we will change our procedures
- The children will follow the amended behaviour rules to ensure that the school community remains safe.
- The children will follow strict rules when playing within their zoned off areas.
- Each class has designated equipment that they will be able to play with during breaks. All equipment will be thoroughly cleaned each evening.
- The large climbing framed area will be sprayed with disinfectant each evening.
- All children will eat their lunch in their classrooms. Free School Meal children will be provided with a packed lunch and all school meals will be this option. Please remember to send into school your preferred options to Mrs Duke, as requested before the end of term. All other children will need to bring a packed lunch to school. Please make sure that all items in the lunch can be opened by your child as this reduces the risk of a potential virus spreading with an adult having to help. You will be able to logon to ParentPay to pay for school lunches from **Wednesday 26th August**.
- The school uniform must be worn to school. There is now **no expectation** that it must be washed each evening.
- Dependent on the weather, a coat/jacket should be worn to school, especially as we will be taking every opportunity to learn outside.
- There will be plenty of opportunities for outside play, use of covered areas and free play using the outside spaces, but keeping to their Year bubble. We will continue with the 'daily dash' for all pupils so that children are keeping healthy outside as much as possible.
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- Children who will be involved in one – to one or group intervention work will be able to work in a specific designated area outside of their classroom– we will obviously follow strict guidelines on safety and hygiene.
- The individual class Masses will return but I am afraid with no invited guests. The Masses will take place in the classroom.
- There will be no after-school activity clubs.
- **Breakfast and Afterschool clubs** will operate but slightly differently.
 - We will be able to accommodate up to 24 children, in the **school hall**, with two staff members supervising.
 - The children will stay with their Year bubble and not mix.
 - The children will be taken outside to play in their designated play area.
 - The children will access the clubs from the gates at the back entrance to the school
 - There will be staggered times for arrival and departure:
7.30 am – 7. 40 am
5.20 pm – 5.30 pm
 - You will be able to bring and pick up your child between these times; a member of staff will be at the gates to greet you.
 - All equipment/toys will be cleaned thoroughly after use.
 - You will be able to logon to book and pay for the clubs from **Wednesday 26th August**. **If you are unsure about this system, please email the school and we will reply as soon as we are able to.**
- Government guidelines have indicated that swimming baths will be open. Year 5 are timetabled to go swimming in September. However, further guidelines are needed before we can communicate the procedures to you.
- The school will be continually cleaned throughout the day and a more thorough clean will take place at the end of the school day.
- Any first aid issues will be dealt with by staff using the appropriate PPE in the classroom/First Aid room.
- Any personal contact, due to first aid or soiling, where staff will not be able to remain the recommended safe 2m distance, will result in the office calling parents to collect their child from school to support them.



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- Under no circumstances will parents/carers be allowed in the school building without an appointment. Our intention is for parents not to congregate near the entrances or on the playground. I appreciate that some circumstances may require parents to discuss concerns as they drop off or collect their children. Adults, please remember to keep to the 2m distance at all times. If you need to speak to your child's teacher that requires more privacy, you can contact the school office who will notify the teacher and then arrange for them to ring you at an agreed time. We will ask that you continue to email or phone the school with any queries. I appreciate this may seem very non-inclusive and contradictory to our school motto, but with the present situation, we are safeguarding our school community.
- I urge you to keep to the designated staggered times for drop off and pick up. If you are late to school, please call the office and we will meet you and your child at the back entrance.
- Please do not send your child into school if they feel at all unwell but especially if they are displaying any of the virus symptoms – a persistent cough, high temperature, loss of smell and taste. If your child arrives at school and appears unwell, we will politely ask you to take your child home.

We have procedures in place if a child/adult falls ill with virus-like symptoms. There is a designated well-ventilated area where children will be taken. Parents/Carers will be contacted to pick up their child from the back of the school. You will be able to park in the staff car park when collecting in these circumstances.

- ['stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection'](#), which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. Public Health England will be notified and in consultation with the Public Health Team in Blackpool, a decision will be made on whether who or if any other member of our school community will need to be sent home.
- In order to complete registers, please ring or message the school if your child is unable to attend, stating the reason.
- Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that pupils who were on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.
- From September, the Government has made school attendance mandatory. This means that **all children are expected to come back to school**. School will monitor attendance as is legally required. If you have any concerns about attending school, please contact Mrs Duke who will support you.



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- Please follow the Government guidance about public transport, especially if you need to catch a bus. Please follow the usual rules for parking in an around school and most importantly, if using the Red Lion car park, you must park in the designated bays and **not in their entrance**. Unfortunately, children will not be able to leave their bikes or scooters on school premises due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- We will update the PowerPoints on the website explaining to the children what they should expect on their return to school and the importance of following the rules and procedures put in place for their own safety and the safety of those around them. We want them to feel secure and happy in this altered environment and be able to confidently participate in their learning.
- We will also put other important documents, on the school website so you have all the relevant information needed to inform you of procedures when your child returns to school. This will be located under the purple banner, '**Returning to school in September.**' **We will text all parents when the relevant documentation goes 'live' on the website.**

I appreciate there are lots of rules and regulations but I hope you understand that we are doing our best to keep our school community safe. I cannot stress enough that you politely keep to all the safeguarding procedures put in place and that we all respect each other's social distance. This is to enable the school to remain open so that children can learn in a vibrant and safe environment.

If there are any further changes in guidance, we may need to change our systems again, if we feel we can improve them in any way. In the meantime, please keep talking to your child about staying safe and reassure them that school is the same happy and positive place that they know. I hope you all continue to have a lovely summer break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to St Bernadette's in September.

With all best wishes for you and your family – stay safe,

Alexis Satterthwaite

Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Mrs Alexis Satterthwaite