



# St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

## 'Doing our best for God'

Date: Tuesday, 02 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you are now all aware, national guidance has confirmed that ALL children can return to school from Monday 8th March. From this date, school attendance will once again become mandatory for all children. I have attached a letter from Paul Turner, (Assistant Director of Children's Services - School Improvement & Special Educational Needs) with additional information about all children returning to school. Like everyone in St Bernadette's, I am sure that this news will be received positively by many of you. However, I am also aware that for some, this may understandably increase your levels of anxiety. I have included answers to the frequently asked questions, below, in order to try and address any concerns or queries.

### **Does my child have to come back to school straight away on 8<sup>th</sup> March?**

Yes, when we return to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, attendance will be mandatory. Children identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) who have received a letter advising them to shield should continue to follow this advice until shielding guidance is removed. Children that live with family members who are considered CEV are expected to return to school (Mrs Duke will support you if you have any concerns).

### **Are staff being tested regularly?**

Yes. From February, all school staff began to undertake twice weekly testing. This will continue for the foreseeable future. As yet, there are no plans for primary aged children to regularly take the tests.

### **Will children be in their class bubble as normal?**

Yes. Class bubbles will resume as before. Year 4, whilst remaining as a class bubble, will be based in the library for a few weeks whilst building work is completed. All children will have their own outside space and children will eat their lunches in the hall.

### **Will staggered start times and home times be the same as before?**

Yes. The staggered drop-off and collection times will be the same as when all children were attending (see table for a reminder of times). Please try to be on time. Where possible, please only one adult to accompany children to the school to avoid overcrowding outside the school gates. **Please continue to wear face coverings at the gates** and leave the school area once your child has entered the school grounds.



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### **What if I am late bringing and collecting my child?**

Please phone the school office and we will arrange to meet you at the brown double doors, at the back of the school, near the green shed.

### **What happens if anyone in school becomes ill with symptoms?**

Should anyone become unwell with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in school, they will be sent home and we will ask that you arrange for your child to have a test. Those who have been in close contact with someone who is ill (the group bubble) at this stage, do not need to go home. If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 then the school will work with Public Health to determine who should not attend our setting and be advised to self-isolate. If you or a family member tests positive for Covid-19, all family members must isolate for 10 days - in both cases above, you must inform the school.

If your child has any sickness or diarrhoea, they must stay at home for 48 hours (after the last episode) before returning to school. We are still asking that any child with any of the lower threshold symptoms to be kept off school until they are feeling better:

- aches and pains
- sore throat
- headache
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers

### **Will breakfast and after school clubs be available?**

Yes, the arrangements are as before. 7.30 am – 7.40 arrival via the back double gates near the green shed. 5.15- 5.30 pm finish, to be picked up at the metal double gates where KS2 normally enter the school. Please book your place through ParentPay.

### **How will you be helping children to catch up on learning they have missed?**

As highlighted by our assessments, we will provide extra support in school. We will also be offering extra support, after school, which we will inform parents of as the children return to school. If necessary, we will also be adjusting our curriculum to ensure that we revisit lots of key information that the children might have missed and need reinforcing. It may be necessary to pause some wider curriculum subjects as we use that time in the timetable to try and strengthen other priorities depending upon the needs we highlight.

### **Can you guarantee 100% safety?**

We will continue to do all that we can, to ensure that our school is a safe environment to learn and work in. We have adjusted the risk assessment in line with new advice given and posted it on our school website. We cannot absolutely guarantee 100% safety against Covid-19 and eliminate all risk. If you are at all concerned, please contact school and I will endeavour to answer any of your queries before children are due back in school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.



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## What learning will you provide if my child is not in school?

If your child is not in school due to self-isolation, a household member is self-isolating, a bubble has had to close or there is a national lockdown, then we will work with you to provide remote and blended learning opportunities. Our Remote learning plan is available under 'Google Classroom' to provide you with more information.

Please continue to complete the on-line booking form for school lunches. **Please note that if you do not book a choice of lunch for your child then we will allocate a choice for them.**

**As I have mentioned, we are in the middle of refurbishing the KS2 classrooms. Year 5 and 6 classrooms are finished, bar snagging, to welcome all the children back. Due to the positioning of a corridor in Year 6, the children will have a portable hanging area for their coats and personal belongings. Year 5 will have their existing corridor for a cloakroom. Please can I ask that both year groups only bring into school a small rucksack as we are limited on space. I do not expect you to buy an alternative rucksack but ask that if you purchase a new one then please consider the size. We are looking into an alternative KS2 bag for the children, in line with the KS1 book bag we already have in place.**

Once all the classrooms have been refurbished, we will put update pictures on the school website with a notification for you to take a look. Once we are all back in school, I will continue to send out information around the upcoming events we would normally have in place for the spring and summer term and explain how we may be able to navigate these events whilst adhering to the processes outlined in the risk assessment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents/carers for their support with Remote Learning throughout the lockdown. It has indeed been a challenge for many but hopefully all the children will return, where they belong, ready to continue face to face learning and once again be able to catch up with their friends and the staff and aspire to be the best that they can be. I would like to take a moment to thank all the staff at St Bernadette's. We are blessed to have such dedicated school staff who go the extra mile for our young people at the best of times, but their efforts, during the lockdown, to navigate Remote Learning for those children at home, whilst teaching an increased number of children in school, has been remarkable.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Take care everyone,

*Alexis Satterthwaite*

**Head Teacher**



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| <b>Class</b>     | <b>Start</b>      | <b>Finish</b>  | <b>Designated drop off &amp; pick up</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| Reception/Year 1 | 8.45 am – 8.50 am | 3.05- 3.10 pm  | Front gates                              |
| Years 2/3        | 8.55 am – 9.00 am | 3.10 – 3.20 pm | Front gates                              |
| Year 4           | 8.40 am – 8.45 am | 3.05 – 3.10 pm | Back gates                               |
| Year 5           | 8.50 am – 8.55 am | 3.15 – 3.20 pm | Back gates                               |
| Year 6           | 8.45 am – 8.50 am | 3.10 – 3.15 pm | Back gates                               |