



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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15th July 2020

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, the government have asked us to accommodate all children in school when the new school year starts in September. We are very excited to have all the children back and are looking forward to being back to more-normal-than-it-has-been.

I'm sure that you will have some questions and even concerns about how the school day will run and how we will do our best to keep the pupils and staff as safe as we can. We have published the latest draft of our Risk assessment on the website; this reflects current instructions and guidance and may well have to change as we approach September. This letter should hopefully give you the headline information you need.

How will the children be grouped?

Children will be in larger groups than before, as the requirement for 2m social distancing has been relaxed. This means that children can mix in "floor groups" (i.e yrs FS&1&2, 3&4, 5&6), although we will be keeping children in year groups as often as possible.

Who will be attending and when?

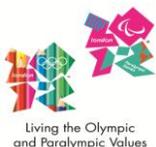
All children are now expected to attend school. If you have concerns that your child has been in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable group, please get in contact with us so that we can help to support their return to school.

The government has confirmed that fines for non-attendance at school will be re-introduced in September, but we would hope to be able to avoid using these by working with you.

Fines will still be in place for unauthorised holidays and absence.

What will happen in the classroom?

- From Yr 2, children will be facing forwards in the classrooms, but as the Department for Education acknowledges, full social distancing within school is not possible and we cannot guarantee that the children will stay the full 2 meters away from each other during the whole day.
- FS and Yr 1 will initially be set up less formally to allow more child initiated play and learning
- We hope to be able to send home reading books in the usual way.



- Children will not be able to play on the outdoor apparatus or use shared equipment or footballs during lunch and playtimes. Each year group will have their own equipment
- Play times and lunch time will be staggered.
- School lunch can be booked online in the usual way

What does my child need to bring to school?

- Each child must have a filled water bottle. The water fountains will not be in use.
- Each child must bring a filled pencil case (pencils, coloured pencils, ruler, rubber, scissors, red pen, highlighter and glue stick) WHICH STAYS IN SCHOOL.
- Please bring a packed lunch if you child is not having a school lunch
- Proper school uniform must be worn, including school shoes.
- PE Kit to be left at school as before
- Coats/waterproofs (green). The children will be outside for as long as possible each day, regardless of the weather!

What are the arrangements for drop off and collection?

- One parent may enter the site alongside a child. FS and KS1 will enter via the Russell Road gate, KS2 use the main entrance. The entrance by the bus stop is not in use.
- Social distancing markers are on the ground; please ensure that you follow these.
- Children will be met by a member of the senior leadership team at the gate and parents must not enter the playground in the morning. You will need to go around the perimeter of the school if you are dropping off at both gates.
- Parents will not be able to speak to teachers at drop off or enter the school building. Please phone or email if you have any questions or queries.
- Parents will need to enter the playground to collect their children at the end of the day but must remain socially distant. Please leave as soon as you have collected your child so that we can keep number on site to a minimum.

What time will school start and end?

FS and KS1 should arrive between 8:50 and 9:00, collection at 3:30

KS2 should arrive between 8:40 and 8:50, collection at 3:20

Can my child wear PPE?

- We will not stop children wearing PPE, however, especially with the younger children we will not be able to help them take it off or put it on during the day. We cannot guarantee that they won't share it with a friend
- We are not stopping staff from wearing PPE, as we feel that this should be a personal choice at this time.



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- PPE will always be worn by staff when appropriate and when delivering first aid

Illness

The medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate if you have coronavirus symptoms or live in the same household as somebody who does and you **MUST NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

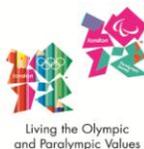
If you have one or more of these symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 7 days – or longer if you still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste and take a test as soon as possible.

If you live in the same household as someone with coronavirus symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 14 days.

- Any child who displays any sign of Covid-19 will be isolated and parents notified immediately to collect them. Testing is now available for all children over the age of 5. Please remember that if your child does test positive, the whole group to which they belong will then have to isolate for 14 days.

Other points to note.

- Parents will be unable to enter the school unless by prior appointment. Please phone or email with any queries.
- Please make sure your child brings everything they need each day. We will not be able to accept forgotten items at the Office
- It will not be possible for us to have assemblies. We will review this as soon as the guidance changes. The children will have assemblies in their classes.
- Please be considerate when parking, especially in the area of Russell Road. Do not block drives or park on yellow lines.
- Please travel safely and park a distance away from the school if possible to ease congestions around the site.
- Clubs run after school by external providers are not expected to run before the second half of the Autumn Term.
- We are still investigating how we might be able to arrange trips.



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Traveling while social distancing – important reminders from Barnet Healthy Streets:

One parent/ carer should do the school run, and should avoid mingling at the school gates. **The safest and healthiest way to travel is outdoors: on foot, by bike or scooter.** When travelling and dropping off/picking up, try to keep 2m away from other people. Everyone should **consider all other forms of transport before using public transport.** If public transport is unavoidable, as well as keeping your hands and face as clean as possible, wearing face coverings is now mandatory.

Consider walking and cycling if you can:

Walking and cycling will reduce pressure on the public transport system and the road network. Many families have been enjoying walking, running, scooting and cycling as part of their daily exercise. It's a great opportunity to keep this going when schools go back. Many of us have experienced how we can maintain distance from others while travelling actively, including making use of the quieter roads.

What will happen if we have a local lockdown?

We now have a well tried and used system through Seesaw to set and mark work and communicate with parents. This will continue to be used for homework and will be used full time if we have to go back into lockdown or support children in remote learning. Work will no longer be set on the website, so please make sure you keep the Seesaw log in details safe.

This plan has been created to try to ensure that our whole school community can remain as safe as possible and will only work with the total commitment of the whole school community. This is particularly the case with keeping the site as clear as possible.

It is very likely that some aspects of this plan may have to change between now and September. Any changes will be sent to you on 2nd September.

Please contact us if you have any other queries,

Yours sincerely,

C.A.McMahon
Head



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