



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Margaret Hanley, B.Ed, Adv. Dip. SEN, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. Jackie Johnstone, B.Ed Hons

Friday 26th February 2021

Return to School for all children – 8th March 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the announcement by the Government and a meeting with the Local Authority yesterday I can confirm that all children can, and should, return to school full time starting on Monday 8th March.

However, Government advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home until further notice. They are advised **not to** attend school while shielding advice applies nationally-at the moment this is until 31st March. If your child falls into this category please ring the school and ask to speak to Miss Graves our SENCo.

I can also confirm that staff will continue to self test twice a week but there will be NO testing for Primary School children.

School has been a strange place over the last half term and although we have been teaching approximately 100 children a day, school feels very quiet. The staff are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back.

Of course, although the number of cases of COVID have fallen, it is still very much part of our everyday lives, so all the restrictions that were in place before Christmas will need to continue.

Most importantly please support us by ensuring that you follow the Public Health advice to minimise coronavirus risks and **DO NOT** send your child to school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, you have someone in your household who does or someone in your household who is awaiting a test result.

Unfortunately there will be no Breakfast Club initially but we hope to reinstate this soon.



Start of the Day

We have made very slight changes to the start and end times of the day – to try and support more social distancing at these times. Please do your very best to maintain a safe distance from other parents/carers.

Please **be on time for school**. We are all working together to keep our whole school community safe. We will not have the capacity to accept late comers to school and can only allow one adult/family into the Reception Lobby at a time.

Arrive-Gates will close promptly at 9am

	Gate	Arrive between
Rec	Rec gate-Hertford Rd	8.45-9.00
Yr 1, Yr 2 & Yr 6	KS1 gate-Bounces Rd	8.40-9.00
Yr 3, Yr 4 & Yr 5	KS2 gate-Hertford Rd	8.40-9.00

End of the Day

Remember to wear a mask when you come to collect your children. Do not approach the class line – your child will be sent to you. Please leave the school site and move away from its surroundings as quickly as you can, avoiding chatting to friends outside the gates. It makes it difficult to pass and many parents and local residents are anxious.

If you wish to speak to a teacher please phone the office and they will get back to you.

**All children can be collected between 3.00 and 3.15 from the playgrounds.
Please collect no later than 3.15 when the gates will close – please do not be late.**

We are hoping that by allowing a bigger window of collection time there will be less crowding outside the school. Please support us by collecting your children promptly.

Personal Belongings:

Children must not bring bags and pencil cases. They will all be provided with stationary. Please send Book Bags and Home Reading Books back to school and new Home Reading books will be sent home again in due course.

Children are expected to wear their full school uniform, but on their PE days they should come to school dressed for PE, in plain navy blue jogging bottoms, a plain white T-shirt and **plain white/plain black trainers or plimsolls**. They may wear a navy tracksuit top or their school jumper.

All children need to bring a named bottle of water daily. The drinking fountains are still not in operation.



The School Day

We will continue to work in Year Group bubbles and playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered so that Year group bubbles will not mix. Hand washing facilities will be available for each class.

Advice from NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/>

Symptoms of coronavirus in children

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Do not send your child to school
2. Book a test - Tests can be booked online through the NHS Testing and Tracing for Coronavirus (COVID-19) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.
3. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.
4. Anyone you live with must also stay at home until you get the result.
5. Inform the school of the result as soon as you receive it

I hope that you and our whole school community stay healthy and strong as we enter another phase and approach a full year of living with this Pandemic. I look forward to seeing everyone on 8th March.

Thank-you again for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

J Johnstone

Mrs. Johnstone
Acting Headteacher

God, I pray for
my prayer life to become
vibrant and strong in this season
of Lent. I pray that Your voice,
even though a whisper, would
ring loud and true in my life.

I pray for the courage and
boldness to follow wherever
You lead me, to love and serve
whomever and however
You invite me.

Amen.

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