**Our Lady and St Anne’s RC Primary School**

**Full Re-opening of school to all children in September 2020 (FAQs)**

As school re-opens to all year groups in September, parents and children will have a number of questions ahead of the re-start. We hope that you will find the answers to some of those questions within this document. This will be a work in progress and we will update this section over time.

The Scientific evidence shows that primary aged children are very low risk. Even if children catch the virus, the symptoms are very mild. Sometimes, there are no symptoms at all but the children are tested because a family member tests positive. Schools are clean, safe environments. Statistics from the partial reopening in June and July are very encouraging, with North East schools managing the situation particularly well. Rest assured, we will be doing everything in our power to ensure the safety of all children and staff in our wonderful school.

**Will children be in classes with their friends in September?**

When children return to school in September, they will be in a class with all of the children from their year group to form a whole class ‘bubble’. Contact with other year groups will be minimised. We will do our best to maintain the integrity of these bubbles. There will be no gatherings with more than one year group such as assemblies, liturgies or Masses. Older children in school will be encouraged to keep their distance within these groups. Movement around school will be kept to a minimum.

**What time does school start and finish?**

School start and finish times will vary from year group to year group and will be regularly reviewed. We are staggering the start and finish times to keep different groups apart and to reduce congestion and traffic at the start and end of the day.

Only one parent or carer should drop off and collect at the times and gates below. If you have children in more than one class, please bring them together at the earliest time and place, and collect at the latest time and place i.e. If you have a child in Year 1 and Year 6, bring them both at 8.40 to the main gate and collect at 3.15 from the Villa Vic gate. The child who is arriving earlier will go straight to their own class bubble. All children will be collected by school staff and **no** parents will be allowed on the school premises, without an appointment.

**Nursery children have specific start and end times during the settling-in process.**

**Nursery and Reception Class start on September 14th**

**Start End Gate**

Nursery 9.10 am 2.45 pm Nursery door

Reception 9.10 am 2.45 pm Villa Vic

**Years 1 -6 return on September 8th**

Yr 1 9.00 am 3.15 pm Villa Vic

Yr 2 8.50 am 3.05 pm Villa Vic

Yr 3 8.40 am 2.55 pm Villa Vic

Yr 4 9.00 am 3.15 pm Main

Yr 5 8.50 am 3.05 pm Main

Yr 6 8.40 am 2.55 pm Main

**Please obey social distancing rules if you are queuing to drop off or collect children. Staff members will be on hand to collect and hand over your children. We hope to make this a smooth process, as we did during the partial reopening, but patience may be required in the first few days until routines are established.**

**Please do not arrive at school earlier than your allocated time slot as this will lead to mixed groups and congregating.**

**All children and parents should leave the school site as soon as possible after drop-off and at the end of the school day. Please do not engage in extended conversations with other families. School staff will ask you to move on.**

**What do classrooms look like?**

Classrooms will look very similar to how they always look. The only difference will be that in the majority of classrooms, desks will be organised in rows where children will be side by side and facing forwards. Some furniture may have been removed to make more space. Windows and doors will be left open to help with ventilation. Year 1 will follow the Early Years Framework, to ensure the vital learning many children have missed is embedded. We expect to sit the Year 1 children at tables, for most of the day, later in the autumn term or in January. All classes have been fitted with their own hand sanitisers.

**What should children bring to school?**

Children should only bring essential items into school with them. This includes a water bottle, coat, and a packed lunch box. No P.E. bags or unnecessary bags should be brought into school

**Children are not to bring their own pencil cases or stationery into school as these will be provided for each bubble.**

**What if I need to return or drop something off at school?**

If you need to return school property you have at home, e.g. books you have found over the summer, or your child has forgotten to bring a packed lunch, you will need to ring the office to let them know you are coming and put the items in the box outside of the office. This will be delivered in a safe, appropriate way, afterwards.

**What if my child needs medication?**

Our Administration of Medication Policy still applies. We are happy to administer medication prescribed by a GP as long as it is signed in at the office. Parents will need to make an appointment to sign in any medication.

**What can children take home?**

Children should not bring equipment back and forward to school. They may take work home with them, e.g paintings, models, drawings but these should not be returned. The majority of homework will be online tasks e.g. Reading Eggs, which includes the books we have been reading in school.

**What will the children be learning?**

All children will be assessed in the first two weeks. Assessment results will be analysed and will help us determine how the initial curriculum will feel for the children. We will allocate time to cover the content that has been missed or needs consolidation. Teaching time will be prioritised to address significant gaps in knowledge.

However, we will be doing our best to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term. At the moment, we have no plans to take children offsite for any visits, including swimming.

**How will school consult with parents?**

Sadly, we had to cancel parents’ evening in March and are unable to invite large groups of parents into school. We will soon be providing you information about class expectations as your child moves into a new class. This will be followed by information about your child’s progress later in the term.

**What will P.E. be like?**

P.E. will have a very important role in the return to school for many children, as it will support social, emotional and mental wellbeing.

For Nursery and Reception Class, P.E. is simply part of the curriculum, where Physical Development occurs on a daily basis and specialised kit is not required. Nursery and Reception children have their own play area, but we will be using it on a timetabled basis, one week at a time. So, for one week Nursery will access the provision on the patio, while Reception access the area at the bottom of the ramp, i.e. the climbing apparatus etc. The following week, the opposite will happen.

Year 1 will continue to follow the Early Years Framework, initially, so no P.E. kits will be required at first.

Children from Year 2 to Year 6 may well do short bursts of P.E. in the classroom or outside, where kits are not required. In addition, each class will be allocated the hall for one day a week, when a formal P.E. lesson can take place, either outside or in the hall. Please note, on an allocated hall day, only that particular class will spend any length of time in the hall (Year 6 will need to walk through the hall to get to their classroom). On these allocated hall days, which start on September 14th, children should come to school in their P.E. kits, so we can minimise changing into and out of clothes, on the following cycle.

Monday 14th September Year 6

Tuesday 15th September Year 5

Wednesday 16th September Year 4

Thursday 17th September Year 3

Friday 18th September Year 2

This rota will continue on the same day each week for these five classes. Class teachers may decide to use the space afforded to them by the hall for other curriculum subjects on their set day.

**What will break times be like?**

Break times will be staggered for different year groups throughout the day. The playground, top yard and patio areas will be used for playtimes and lunch time. More than one year-group may access outdoor provision at the same time but will be kept in separate areas and will be unable to mix.

Children will be asked to wash/sanitise their hands before and after playing outside.

Outdoor climbing equipment will not be used. Each year group will be allocated a limited amount of equipment to play with which will only be used by them, kept within their bubble and cleaned regularly.

**What will lunchtime be like?**

Lunchtime will take place from 12.00 till 1.00pm every day. Children will eat lunch in their classroom at their desks. Children who have school dinners will be provided with a packed lunch or hot food in a box. This will be delivered to their class to limit the number of children moving around school. In order to ensure bubbles are not breached, children will have set times outside. As a rule of thumb, classes will have approximately 20minutes for lunch in the classroom, 20 minutes outside, weather permitting, and 20 minutes in the classroom during the lunch hour.

**What should children wear?**

Children should wear their school uniform to attend school as normal. All school clothing should be cleaned regularly as washing machines are known to kill the virus.

**What measures are in place to prevent the spread of the virus?**

Children who have Coronavirus symptoms or who have someone in their family who has, should not attend school.

Children will be encouraged to wash hands more regularly and thoroughly than usual.

The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach will be followed.

Enhanced cleaning will take place in and around school.

Year groups will be kept apart and social distancing will be maintained where possible.

PPE will be used by staff in very limited circumstances.

**What are the expectations around the NHS Test and Trace process?**

**Staff and parents/carers will need to be ready and willing to:**

* [book a test](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested) if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
* provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
* [self-isolate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus.

**Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus can and should get a test.**

Parents should inform school immediately of the results of a test:

* if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
* if someone tests positive, they should follow the [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

**Does my child have to attend school in September?**

Yes. School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn term. The usual rules on school attendance will apply and children will be expected to attend.

**Is school providing wrap around provision?**

Only pre-school, from 8 am until 8.30 am. There will be no after school provision or clubs until further notice. We are no longer able to provide free breakfasts. Children accessing pre-school provision (£2 per day) need to be booked in via the school office. The children should have had breakfast at home and will go straight to their class bubble, on arrival. Parents should bring these children to the main gate and ring the school office so a member of staff can meet your child at the gate. Unfortunately, for safety reasons, we can not admit anyone to our pre-school provision after 8.30, as we need to prepare for the first classes, who will be arriving at 8.40.

**Can supply teachers and peripatetic teachers attend school?**

Yes. Supply teachers and peripatetic teachers such as sports coaches and music teachers can continue to operate in schools but they will be expected to comply with the school’s arrangements for managing and minimising risk, including taking particular care to maintain distance from other staff and pupils. School will aim to only work with a regular, consistent number of these staff.

**How will school be cleaned?**

School will be guided by the [COVID-19: Cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings) and ensure that stringent measures are in place. Cleaning staff will now be working additional hours to meet demand and surfaces that are regularly touched will be cleaned throughout the day with toilets cleaned every hour. Antibacterial wipes and sprays will be made available in all areas of school, including every classroom, for staff to use when necessary.

**Are parents allowed into school?**

To ensure we keep the risk of spreading the virus to a minimum, no visitors will be allowed into the school without prior arrangement. All messages should be communicated with school via phone call or email.

**Are face coverings to be worn in school?**

Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in primary schools but this will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as staff and pupils are mixing in consistent groups and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and education.