



St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Principal- Mrs L Hamilton

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that your child is looking forward to returning to school next week or to welcoming back their classmates if they have continue to attend. I am writing to you today to give you further information about the safe reopening of our school on 8th March. The government has produced detailed guidance on the return to school which, of course, we will follow as we have done throughout.

As you know, our first priority is the health and safety of the children and staff and I urge you to play your part by wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing on school grounds. In addition, I urge you to ensure you fully follow government guidelines at home. This will reduce the risk of your children bringing the virus into school and force us to close to certain children/classes.

Along with this letter you will receive a more lengthy guidance document. I urge you to take the time to read it carefully so that you fully understand the measures that we will take and the ways that you must help us.

You should not send your child to school if you or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of coronavirus. If this is the case, please inform school immediately.

In order to comply with government guidance and to aid social distancing, we must have a one way system and staggered start and end to the school day. The one way system applies to everyone entering school. It applies at all times of the day. 'Running late', 'having young children' or 'no one coming the other way' are not excuses to put the safety of other people at risk by not following the one way system. This will not be tolerated.

Unfortunately, the staggered start and end may mean that some parents have a wait to drop off siblings. Whilst I appreciate this may be inconvenient, it is unavoidable.



The staggered drop off and collection times are:

Year group	Drop off time	Pick up time	Entrance and exit
Pre-School	8.45am or 12.15pm	11.45am or 3.15pm	Pre-school
Nursery	8:45am	3pm	Nursery
Reception	8:55am	3:10pm	Reception
Year 1	8:50am	3:05pm	Year 1
Year 2	9am	3.15pm	Year 2
Year 3	8:45am	3pm	KS2 yard
Year 4	8:50am	3:05pm	KS2 yard
Year 5	8:55am	3:10pm	KS2 yard
Year 6	9am	3.15pm	KS2 yard

As before we need to keep the number of adults on site to a minimum and so only one parent/carer should drop off and collect your child. Walking is the safest way to travel to school where possible.

Please note that, as from Monday 8th March, it is mandatory for your child to attend school meaning that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child. Please contact us if you have any anxiety so we can support you to ensure your child attends.

You may have heard about lateral flow testing in schools. This does not apply to primary aged children so will not affect your child. Public Health England have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Staff are tested twice weekly and will self-isolate if the result is positive. Additionally, staff wear face coverings in corridors and other indoor communal areas. All the additional safety measures we introduced in the autumn term will remain in place.

As I am sure you are aware SATs and the Phonics Check have been cancelled. Despite this we will continue to assess your children in order to fully prepare them for any transitions. Once again I am so proud of our staff who have worked so hard to ensure that progress can continue during the lockdown. I am equally delighted with the work that has taken place to ensure ALL pupils can have a safe return on Monday 8th March.

I thank you all for your support, prayers and kind words during this most difficult of times.



Mrs Hamilton
Principal