

# St Albert's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter Monday, 06 July 2020

[www.stalbertsprimary.co.uk](http://www.stalbertsprimary.co.uk)

## Returning to school in September

You will have heard in the news that schools are expected to be fully open in September and all children are due to return. We received guidance late last week and we are currently working on this. We will be sending out thorough parental guidance booklets to you all before we break up to ensure that you are fully aware of how school will operate. As it stands, the government are confident that,

- with the reduction in COVID cases,
- the track and trace system
- and protective measures that will be in place in schools

it is safe for everyone to return.

I appreciate that some of you will be anxious, and this is perfectly normal under the circumstances, but as the Head teacher I do agree that we need to begin to move towards getting the children back into school in a safe manner so that their education is not damaged further by an even more sustained period of time off school. As a school, we are confident that, with the support and co-operation of all of our parents, we will be able to provide as safe an environment as possible, 'catch our children up' and get them back on track. If time off school, however, was to be further prolonged, this would be increasingly difficult. We need to be able to support our children's mental health, give them routine and allow them the opportunity to re-connect with their friends and their learning as soon as possible. Hopefully, the time will be right in September for us to make these steps.

In preparation for this, I would like to make you aware of some of the highlights that the recent DFE guidance puts in place. You can begin to familiarise yourself now with how school will look and feel when children return in September.

- We will open to all classes on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.
- Attendance is mandatory
- Normal class sizes will be in place but they will be in their own bubbles and avoid contact with all other classes/bubbles.

- Social distancing within the bubble will not be needed but children will need to maintain social distancing with teachers and adults and those in other bubbles whenever possible. Older children will be expected to avoid contact but it is understood that this is not possible for younger children and now not considered to be dangerous as transmission is low
- Those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, cannot attend school and those who are ill in school will be sent home. Isolation rules will apply
- Slightly staggered start and pick up times will be in place. It will be very important that parents support us with this - pupils cannot be late or they will disrupt someone else's safe slot. These will be sent out as part of the Guidance Booklet. Likewise, play and lunchtimes will be staggered.
- Drop offs at the school gate will be encouraged so that adults do not need to enter the premises unnecessarily (teachers will be on hand to support this).
- Parents will not be allowed in school and will need to avoid congregating at the gates.
- Additional cleaning will take place throughout the day.
- Children will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly and more often and good hygiene will be promoted ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Wider gatherings will not be allowed ie assembly
- No contact sport will be allowed but PE will take place regularly (especially as isolation has widely impacted upon children's fitness levels!)
- PPE will not need to be worn by staff unless they are dealing with specific cases.

**At St. Albert's, our mission is walking together with Jesus to**

**LOVE, LEARN AND SERVE**

**Our vision centres around the 'CHILD'**

**C for the Child, H for High Expectations, I for Inspirational & Memorable, L for Listening and D for Dreams and Doors.**

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- School will not routinely take the temperature of pupils but parents will be expected to be vigilant.
- Small adaptations to the classroom will be needed to support distancing and pupils will sit side by side and facing forwards.
- School uniform **will be** worn in September.
- Daily resources will not be shared but other equipment which may need to be shared will be cleaned thoroughly between use.
- The school will work on a nurture program and move towards a catchup program with children. Plans for this are already underway.
- Schools will need to be prepared to go into lockdown if necessary, and parents will need to engage, and encourage their children to engage, with remote learning. This will be vital if we go into either local or national lockdown again. Unlike last time, when our focus was on reducing the amount of stress that families were under due to unexpectedness of the lockdown, for any future lockdowns families will be expected and need to support their child's learning. As a school, we will be working with you on this so that you are fully prepared.

As you can imagine, all of the above is just a fraction of the guidance and measures that will be in place, but I do believe that it is important that you begin preparing yourself and your children for a return to school. Remember.....we are here to help and support and I have every faith that we will be able to achieve this together. Our Learning Mentors (Mrs Deyes and Miss Delahunty) are in school and available, so if you wish to begin calling them now and discussing your concerns please do so as we will hopefully be able to alleviate or support a lot of your worries.

Remember... we still have a lot of time before September. Use this period of time to venture outside and build up your confidence if this is needed.

Rest assured that SAFETY is paramount for us, as it has been throughout this period, and we will not do anything to compromise this. Full risk assessments will be in place and regularly reviewed and we will make sure that school is as safe a place as it can be. As it stands, until we hear further, the time is right for us to return to school in September and, ensuring you and your children (and our staff) feel safe, is our priority.

If your child has a shielding letter (and this is still applicable in September) please contact school to discuss this further.

Also if you are due to go on holiday in the summer, to a country not part of the travel corridor, school will need to be informed as isolation will need to be declared.

**Summer Packs** - We are busy preparing summer packs for collection and once all the booklets have arrived in school we will be contacting you with socially distanced pick up times. Hopefully, you will find the pack useful and children will be able to do an element of school work throughout the summer to keep their learning ticking over. Every little bit helps.



**Children's Phone Calls** - Your child's new class teacher will have made arrangements to chat to your child as part of our transition for next year. Hopefully, this will help support your child with regards to the move to a new class teacher as they will have made contact in some way.



**Zooms/Telephone calls to Parents** - As scheduled, new class teachers called parents last week to introduce themselves. Hopefully, you were able to participate in this and that you found them useful as a first step.



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