



# St Albert's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs L McEvoy

*"Walking together with Jesus to Love, Learn and Serve"*

18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that you are all keeping well and are feeling more positive as we begin to move forwards with the COVID roadmap. I am writing to share with you some of the important messages that our latest Risk Assessment is highlighting.

It is important to note that despite the introduction of some freedoms nationally, there are not many changes that we have been able to make in school. This is not a bad thing however, as I am sure you will agree that a slower approach will hold us in good stead and allow us more confidence in the changes as we make them.

It will also be important to consider if some of the adjustments, that we have made over the last year, should remain as they have many benefits. (For example – do parents prefer the drop off system now as this is running smoothly and children are much more independent). This will be something for us to decide as a school and we will certainly seek your views whenever possible as we move forwards.

Our plans, at present, are as follows:

Face masks- all parents must continue to wear these when dropping children off at school or picking them up. This has fallen at the moment but I am sure that you will be able to put this quickly back in place especially with the new variant.

Staggered times – these will continue and be reviewed in Sept 21 as children move classes.

Lunch times – these will continue to be staggered.

Parents on premises – at present, no parents will be allowed on the premises without an appointment. This will be reviewed regularly. Visitors will continue to be restricted.

Social Distancing-Bubbles will remain in place and movement within the school will be kept to a minimum.

Symptoms and isolating -parents are asked to continue to be vigilant in relation to symptoms and isolating when necessary both for children and family members. This is particularly important if school is to remain a safe environment. If children develop symptoms they must be tested with a PCR test (not a lateral flow home test) and all family members must continue to isolate. Please note that this process has not changed.

Staff Testing- staff are currently testing themselves, at home, twice weekly and this will continue.

Staffing – shielding staff have returned to school but we are still managing staff absences due to staff needing to isolate staff.

Sporting Activities – children are allowed to take part in sporting activities now and we will take advantage of this in the short space of time that we have left. Identified children and classes may, therefore, now be involved in tournaments and parents will be notified if it effects your child. All COVID risk assessments will be strictly adhere to.

With regards to our Sports' Day we will be making sure that the children have this experience this year especially as they missed out on this last year. Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed to attend but we will make sure that we record it for you in some form or other.

Minibus – we will be begin using the minibus again now as necessary and a risk assessment is in place for this.

School Trips- sadly, these will not take place this year for any classes (except possibly Year 6). We are currently exploring ideas for 'treat' activities that can take place at school.

School Uniform- all children should be in full school uniform now and this is of particular importance. In September we will be insistent upon black shoes so please prepare for this. Children should not be wearing colourful trainers between now and September.

PE kits – the system of wearing PE kit to school on PE days is working well and will remain in place. It is important, however, that children are in the school PE kits from now on, as too many children are coming into school in ordinary track suits. Please note that they also need PE pumps in school.

With regards to the PE kit, we will be looking at smarting this up for September and we will notify you of this as soon as possible. If children are to be in their kits throughout the day we feel that they would benefit from it looking smarter and being of a better quality.

Year 6 – as we begin to prepare to say goodbye to our year 6, we want to ensure that we give them a 'proper' St Albert's send off. Obviously, we will not be able to celebrate in our normal manner but we are seeking alternatives or making adjustments to our approach so that we can welcome some parents into school (socially distanced) for some of our traditional goodbyes. Mrs Ashdown will be in touch shortly with our plans.

Transition Days- we are planning these for next half term and all classes will have the opportunity to visit their new class teacher and their new classroom. Details to follow

Travel - I am sure that you are all aware of the travel restrictions in place and how they present a moving picture. Any children or families planning to go on holiday, either over whit or the summer holidays, must be mindful that the school will strictly adhere to the isolation periods that the government have put in place. No children will be allowed into school without sufficient evidence that the correct isolation has taken place.

There will be lots of further information over the coming weeks and, as a school, we will be looking closely at any guidance that is released especially so that any changes are carefully planned in time for September and the start of the new year. Please keep up to date with all emails and newsletters for further updates.

I am sure you will agree that the systems that we have in place have been very effective and they are now well established. I am also sure that you will be in agreement with the school and the Governing Body, that proceeding in a cautious manner is best for all involved especially as we have so little time left in school before the summer holidays. Please continue to look after yourselves and your families in the coming weeks. It is very important that we continue to adhere to the rules if we want to remain in school and then enjoy the summer and the freedoms that are beginning to open up to us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L McEvoy  
Headteacher

