



Christ is the Centre of St Patrick's School,  
where we live, love and learn together.

ST. PATRICK'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Smith Street, Ryhope, Sunderland, SR2 0RQ  
Tel: 0191 5235050

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### **Return to school – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Dear parents

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, we would like to share with you our plans for the full reopening of our school on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Our aim is to welcome all year groups back and to try to keep things as 'normal' as possible for the children. We are hoping that arrangements will be quite similar to those that were in place in September 2020 when all year groups returned to school. We are delighted that all of our pupils will be returning but we must also ensure that we mitigate any possibilities of the spread of COVID.

#### **Prior to coming into school**

- Please do not send your child to school if they have symptoms, such as a persistent cough or a high temperature or a loss of smell or taste. Please follow government guidance if this is the case.
- It may be necessary for individual or groups of children, whole-class bubbles, or even the whole school to isolate at home, if there are confirmed cases of coronavirus.
- Please ensure that the school has your up-to-date contact details, especially your mobile phone number. If your child becomes unwell during the day or we need to close class bubbles at short notice, we will need to contact you immediately.

#### **Coming into school.**

- School times will be slightly different to prior lockdown. Start times will now be staggered to reduce the number of people on the yard at any one time, and to keep everyone in our school community as safe as possible.
- On a morning, the gate will open at 8.45am.
- Reception & Year 1/2 drop off 8.45 – 8.55 am. If you have siblings in KS2, you can also drop them off at the same time, so that parents are not congregating on the yard.
- KS2 drop off will be 8.55 - 9:05am.
- We need to ensure social distancing takes place whilst you are on school premises. Your child will need to enter the school yard via the small gate at their allotted time slot. We would ask that you try to observe social distancing outside of the school grounds and try to be as punctual as possible to avoid overcrowding. Only one accompanying adult per child please in order to reduce overcrowding on the yard. Your child will be greeted by a member of



staff and directed towards their entrance. If there are several adults and children wishing to enter the school yard at the same time, there is a queuing system in place whereby you and your child will wait 2m apart from others. This is in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

- You must leave the yard as quickly as possible via the large gates. Please do not enter via the large gate. Any messages that need passing onto the class teacher will be written down and passed on as soon as possible. In order to minimise the risk of transmission, you will not be permitted to enter the school building. Any member of staff who needs to pass on a message to you, will contact you by telephone or pass it to the member of staff who will be out on the yard that morning.
- All children will be washing and sanitising hands at regular intervals during the day. Children are not to bring in their own hand sanitiser or hand wash as the school will provide these.
- To keep our school family as safe as possible, we are asking all parents to wear a face mask when entering the school premises. Parents who do not wear a mask **MUST** leave the premises immediately and not wait around on the yard. In addition, staff will not be able to communicate verbally with parents who do not wear a mask; this instead will be via telephone as it is important that we keep everyone safe. Thank you in advance for your continued support in this matter.

#### Lunchtime

- Lunchtimes will be staggered. Your child will need to either bring a packed lunch, or have a lunch provided by school. Packed lunches will be eaten either inside the dining room or outside on the yard, depending on the weather.
- All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a universal free school meal.
- Parents of children who need to pay dinner money **must use** the online system. Please **do not** give your child an envelope with money to bring in at the start of the week. This will reduce the risk of the spread of the virus. Thank you in advance for your continued support in this matter.

#### Home time

- Gates will be opened from 3.10pm. Reception and KS1 can be collected from the yard after the gates have been opened. If you have a sibling in KS2, your child will remain with their class teacher until KS2 home time.
- KS2 children have a home time of 3.20pm. We would ask parents of solely KS2 children not to come onto the yard until this time to enable KS1 parents and children to leave the premises. Thank you.
- One parent will be permitted to enter the school yard at their allotted time through the small gate and will be asked to wait on one of the spots on the yard. These spots are 2 metres apart.



- When you have collected your child, you must leave the yard as quickly as possible via the large gates. Any messages that need passing onto the class teacher will be written down and passed on as soon as possible. In order to minimise the risk of transmission, you will not be permitted to enter the school building. Any member of staff who needs to pass on a message to you, will contact you by telephone or pass it to the member of staff who will be out on the yard that morning.
- Please do not wait for your child at the large gate as this may cause congestion.
- Please again wear a face mask when coming onto the yard to collect your child.

#### Breakfast and after school clubs

- Our school breakfast and after school club will be running from next Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- If you wish for your child to attend a breakfast or after-school club session, please ensure that payments are made at least 24 hours in advance.
- Breakfast club begins at 8am and your child can be brought into school via the main entrance from that time. The cost of breakfast club is £2.20 per session.
- After school club ends at 5.20pm and your child will need to be collected from the main office before this time. The cost of after school club is £4.20 per session.
- Payment for these clubs must be made online.

#### P.E.

- On the day your child has P.E. they will need to come to school in their P.E. kit. This is to eliminate the need to get changed during the school day. Correct P.E. kit must be worn, including appropriate footwear. In colder weather, your child may wear tracksuit/jogging bottoms. School sweatshirts/cardigans must also be worn.
- P.E. days are as follows:
  - Tuesday – Reception.
  - Thursday – Y6 and Y1/2.
  - Friday – Y3/4 and Y4/5.

#### Bags etc.

- We ask that your child brings as little as possible into school.
- They will not be permitted to bring any stationery from home. Each child will have their own allocated stationery to use in school.
- Your child will need to bring their own water bottle into school, as they cannot use cups etc. This water bottle is to be taken home every night, washed and brought in the following day.

#### Year 6

- Year 6 will be able to walk home unattended if parents have given written permission for them to do so.



- Year 6 will not be permitted to bring mobile phones to school for infection control reasons.

#### Attendance

- School attendance will be compulsory from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- If your child is unwell, it is very important that you contact the school office on 0191 5235050 as soon as possible. We will need to know the reason for their absence.
- Please try to keep medical appointments during the school day to a minimum. Please make appointments outside of school hours wherever possible.

#### Meetings

- Due to the current restrictions, we will still not be able to have meetings with parents or carers within the school building.
- If you need to speak to a member of staff:
  - Contact the school office to organise to speak to the staff member on the phone or
  - It may be possible to have a short, socially-distanced conversation with the staff member on the yard after school whilst wearing a face covering. **If you have a medical exemption from wearing a face mask, then any communications with staff MUST be via telephone. It is vital that we keep all members of our school community as safe as possible. Thank you in advance for your continued support in this matter.**
- We will be providing you with details regarding parents' evenings over the next few weeks.

All of the staff at St. Patrick's are looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school next Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We would like to thank you all for your tremendous on-going support.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mr G Kelly

*G Kelly*

Head Teacher