

# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

Telephone: 01924 423220

Website: [www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk](http://www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk)

Email: [office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk)

Mrs C Moulding – Head Teacher      Miss J Smith – Deputy Head



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In line with the Government's drive to re-open schools to several year groups, we have been working hard to establish how that will work at our school. The Government have advised that the 'five tests' will need to be fulfilled, including the 'Test, Track and Trace' system before this can happen. The final decision as to whether schools should open will not be known until the 28<sup>th</sup> May. However, we are issuing this initial plan to give parents some advanced notice.

As you will have seen in the news and on social media, this is still a very fluid situation including challenges to the Government's decision to reopen schools. Several local councils have made the decision not to re-open schools in the timeline requested. Please note that this is not currently the case for Kirklees.

Following very careful analysis of all documentation, health and safety analysis, risk assessments and consultation the Kirklees authority, the Diocese of Leeds and with governors at the full governing body meeting last night, I write this very cautious plan for the wider opening of school.

The re-opening of our school is based on:

- the guidance provided by the Department for Education
- using the EYFS space we have
- the classrooms and their dimensions
- the staffing we have available (some staff, including myself, are shielding with very serious medical conditions or are classed as highly vulnerable)

## High-Level Summary

- Based on the guidance provided by the Government etc around social distancing and risk assessment **each classroom can only accommodate up to 12 children**
- Groups of up to 12 children will be allocated to a 'Bubble'
  - Each bubble will have 2 members of staff where possible (this may not be their usual teacher/ETA)
  - Each bubble will be assigned to a dedicated classroom (this may not be their normal classroom)
  - Each child from Y1 up will be assigned a desk that they will use each day and where they will have their lunch
  - The bubbles will remain isolated from each other to minimise risk
- Access to the school grounds will be for staff and children only
  - School start times will be staggered to remove congestion risks
  - Drop off and pick up will be at the bottom of the school drive as the pedestrian gate is too narrow (risk assessment)
- The school will start to re-open gradually from the 2<sup>nd</sup> June with a staggered intake to ensure that the new processes and procedures put in place to minimise the risk to our children, staff and families are working. A risk assessment will be performed before progressing to the next stage.



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Unlike other Catholic Primary schools in our Diocese, and many Kirklees schools our situation appears to be unique; based on the parent surveys completed last week, over 80% of applicable children would like a place from the beginning of June compared to between 35% and 50% at other schools.

Taking all this into account, it is with regret that we can only currently offer spaces to **Reception children, Year 1 children and the children of Critical Workers**. Based on the constraints highlighted within our risk assessment and the guidance provided by various bodies, we have no further capacity.

**Please note that the offer of places is a conditional offer and subject to change at any time, following further analysis as we put it into practice, full governor meetings along every step of the journey or the advice received are changed.**

## **Important Information – school information must be read and understood**

Below are some of the links that contain the guidance provided by the Government:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The SLT and Governing Body at St Patrick's have studied this guidance and the schools' risk assessment planning and aim to implement it as closely as possible, within the limits of our school building and staffing. Each part of this plan is based on the principle of keeping children and staff safe and reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 as much as possible, in our school building and your homes, our staff's homes and the wider community. For this reason, the basis of the planned offer is that those who enter the school site (children and staff only) understand that a **social distance must be kept between each other at all times**, as near to 2m as we can whenever we can. It is understood the youngest children in Reception will need support to do this, when they can, especially through provision learning rather than sitting at a table on their own at all times, which we do not feel they would cope with emotionally at this time. Staff will maintain the social distance from the pupils as much as possible, however, within the Reception bubbles, pupils will not be able to do this at all times. Staff will be setting the "Bubble" provision spaces up so that they are as safe as we can make them regarding pupils being together, with a small group of up to 12 pupils only due to our classroom dimensions. This is in line with DfE guidance which states *"Where settings can keep children and young people 2 metres away from each other, they should do so."*

All children who return to school, when we reopen in a slow staggered and ongoing risk assessed approach across June, will be cared for well, but from a social distance without personal contact. However, **this will not be school as they know it** and in many respects, the restrictions which will be placed on them in school **may** prove very hard and less valuable than the opportunities they are



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having and enjoying in the home, where social distancing is not expected. It is highly probable that the lead adult for your child's group of up to 12 pupils only will **not be their usual teacher or in their usual classroom** and they will not even see the adults and other pupils. The lead adult can be a teacher or member of our support staff as needed according to staffing availability. Only you as parents can now judge the right course of action for your child, always keeping in your mind how you believe they will cope emotionally with these huge changes to how we would normally be able to educate, support and ultimately care for your child and whatever you decide, we are here to support you and your child through this very strange and difficult time. We are hoping to put video footage of the bubble spaces on the website near to your child's bubble transition into school, so that you can share these with your child before they come, explaining to them how this will be **SO different and strange**.

This planned offer is always subject to change as a result of risk assessments, discussions with the full governing body at every stage or new guidance and its principles are explained in detail below:

## **We can only work within capacity**

Leaders and governors at St Patrick's have determined the capacity the school has for welcoming back pupils. The government has asked us to make preparations for vulnerable pupils and pupils whose parents are critical workers (please be aware this list may well be changed and updated which may affect your eligibility) Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Capacity always depends upon the number of staff available and the number of spaces available to safely accommodate groups of up to 12 pupils only (according to our risk assessment) in isolated spaces around the school.

We have determined, and it has been agreed by Kirklees and the Diocese, that we do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate all year groups stated by the government, so, unfortunately, the provision will **not be offered** (in line with government guidance) to Year 6 pupils first and our Nursery pupils. As a result of having only one EYFS space as a large unit and a high intake of 35 Reception pupils and 26 Nursery pupils, we would need many extra classrooms across the school and additional adults to have a full EYFS offer. Our Reception class must be split into three bubble groups so we will have to split the EYFS unit into two provision classrooms by a significant partition with unused area in the middle. We will need to alter our Year 2 classroom into an EYFS provision space, so we will need a total of 6 members of staff to support EYFS which is more than we usually have. Unfortunately, we **do not** have the teachers, adults, classroom space or EYFS provision resources to create two more provision classrooms for a Nursery offer or three more classroom spaces for a Year 6 offer. At this time, we have been instructed **not** to use a rota as part of the offer but this may be subject to change.

It is believed that, as Nursery pupils are not yet at the statutory school age and have a whole year of EYFS provision ahead of them in the next academic year, the focus has to be on the Reception class for the transition to KS1, and equally Year 1 pupils who should have completed a phonics statutory check this year and have the end of Key Stage 1 statutory assessments this time next year. This has been agreed by Kirklees and the Diocese of Leeds. We also recognise that the very young Nursery pupils would struggle hugely with the massive changes that would happen to their early school



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experience. Reception pupils may also find this very hard and may struggle to cope. If this is the case, we will be advising parents to keep them at home. The guidance states that the school should continue to provide childcare for vulnerable pupils and pupils whose parents are critical workers and as a school, we have high numbers of critical worker pupils across Year 2 to Year 6 so we must allocate two classroom spaces and the appropriate staffing. Any critical worker pupils in Reception and Year 1 will be part of that bubble and use the expectations for that bubble.

I am very sorry we have had to make this decision but it is the only one possible as a rota system offer, which I may have considered to allow more pupils an offer is not permitted at the moment.

## Support for children not attending school

Any parents who feel that they do not want to send their child back to school under these circumstances and a hugely changed school experience should be assured that **they will not incur any penalties**. There will be the continuation of learning provision on the class pages of the website for those who choose to stay at home and those year groups who are not being transitioned into school. Although we must take into account that every class teacher will be full time in a bubble group every day.

## Children and Adults with underlying medical conditions

Children and young people who are considered **extremely clinically vulnerable and are shielding** must continue to shield and will be told not to attend St Patrick's at this time.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is **extremely clinically vulnerable and/or shielding** should only attend if stringent social distancing can be guaranteed - in the case of these very young children (Reception and Year 1) we, the SLT and Governing Body, ask them also to remain at home.

Children who suffer from asthma are advised to stay at home although this is a parental choice, however, you must recognise that advice from school and the governors at this time is not to return.

## Grouping children into 'bubbles'

Children will be placed in a 'bubble' group. These groups have been carefully planned based on the number of children who would like to return from the beginning of June, or are hoping to return before the end of the Summer term. We will not be able to change the bubbles or the staff during the remainder of this term. Each bubble will have a maximum of 12 children as a result of the dimensions of classroom or provision spaces available. The distance between the tables in the Year 1 and critical worker rooms will be just less than 2m from a child's chair to the next child's chair - an appropriate social distance in order to be able to make this offer to Reception and Year 1 pupils. The groupings are **non-negotiable** but thought has been given to the groups. In Reception, they are the colour groups they/you already know. That said, there should be no physical contact within these groups so any children who are likely to be drawn together will be kept apart as much as possible.



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Pupils need to be made aware of the need for social distancing from staff and each other before they start their transition back into school as this will be very alien to them but also VERY important.

Each bubble will have an allocated a staff member, or two when we can and will be allocated a classroom in the school. Staff will remain with the same bubble indefinitely and **in some bubble groups, it will not be your child's usual class teacher or ETA or the usual classroom they are used to.**

## A typical school day

School start and finish times will be staggered with 15 minutes gap between bubble groups to ensure they do not meet which is the expectation of the Government, the Diocese and the Local Authority. This means that the length of the school day **WILL** be affected. You will be allocated a time to drop off and collect your child – these are **NON-NEGOTIABLE**. Parents will not be permitted to enter the school grounds and children must be handed over to their “Bubble” staff member at the entrance to the school drive by the double gate. Miss Smith will be ensuring social distances are maintained – **one adult and their child only** to form a line on the path with 2m distance between each.

Every effort will be made to comfort any children who are distressed, but this will need to be done within social distancing guidelines as much as possible. If a child is distressed and refusing to leave their parent, they will have to remain at home as we are not able to break social distancing rules and parents **MUST** prepare their children for this. This is alien to how we would normally work or support your child but it is vital within the risk assessment approved by the governors and local authority. You will need to spend some time talking to your child about these new drop off and collection arrangements so they are prepared. The risk assessment of the usual pedestrian gate has been that it would be too higher risk for inspection spread.

## Curriculum

We will continue to update the class pages of the website with the learning for the week which pupils in school will follow in their designated individual workspace, along with outdoor activities planned by our PE/Sports Coordinator Mrs Cawtheray.

Children will be provided with a set of resources/stationery which they will keep at their station/table throughout. They will have individual reading but won't have access to the same range of material as usual. There will be a focus on listening to stories and using the whiteboard to view these. They are **NOT** to bring a bag or any resources from home. Adult support will be provided, but from an appropriate social distance. Should an adult need to move closer they may choose to put a face covering on to protect both themselves and the child. For the Critical Worker and Year 1 bubbles, pupils **MUST** be made aware they will spend the VAST majority of their time sat at an individual desk, working on their own which is not how we would usually work – interaction with peers will be done from their desks in a safe way. It will NOT be the curriculum offer we would usually have in school.



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## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Government guidance states that *“wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.”* As this is only a recommendation, we will give staff the right to wear a face covering should they want to if they have to close the social distance when supporting a child's learning or offering emotional some support whilst keeping the pupil and themselves safe at all times. Adults working with Reception children will be able to wear one at all times if they so wish due to the nature of the provision working and less social distancing, otherwise we would have to use formal sit down table learning at all times – which I know some schools are trying to use.

For pupils, we are not suggesting or asking parents to send their child with a face-covering following the government guidance however if a parent feels very strongly against this please speak to either myself or Miss Smith (Deputy Head) as a child should be competent at removing/putting on the face mask, at lunchtime for instance, as staff will not assist with this. You should also be sure your child **will not play with it so that they have their fingers around their mouth as this increases the risk of infection transmission and you would be asked not to send it.** Following the full governing body meeting our advice is that children do not wear one.

Parents should also take note of government advice which states *“Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”*

## Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Whilst we will do everything we can to support children with Special Educational Needs, there is an expectation that they will be able to understand and closely follow the new procedures and expectations. It must be noted that for those who have had 1:1 support the same social distancing rules will apply. Small group interventions will not begin again until the new school year as all staff will be working with their specific bubble group only and cannot run those interventions. Should any pupil refuse to or be unable to keep to the safety expectations in place (the vast majority of the time) and put themselves or others at greater risk, we will ask parents to keep that pupil at home – I am not imagining this to be the case at St Patrick's but must be understood by parents when accepting an offer place.

## Behaviour Policy

The new measures will be explained clearly to pupils who attend school. We ask that you remind them of the rules on a regular basis too. Pupils who are unable or refuse to adhere to the school expectations or who present behavioural issues that put others at a higher risk of infection such as, but not only spitting, coughing in people's faces or purposely heavy breathing over people, the parent will be instructed by a member of the school's leadership team to keep their child at home – I am not imagining this to happen at St Patrick's but it must be in place. This would not be recorded as an exclusion.



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Our behaviour policy will be amended to reflect these changes – we now have a page on the website for Behaviour in our School and this will be adapted to show this.

## Toileting

School staff will not assist with toileting under any circumstances for the vast majority of pupils. You should ensure that your child can go to the toilet independently before deciding to send them to school. If your child has an EHCP which states they need support with toileting in the plan, then this will continue with appropriate PPE for staff should the need arise. If your child is poorly with a stomach upset we will endeavour in the safest possible way to help your child to clean themselves and call for a parent to take them home, as we usually would. We have very few pupils in school with difficulties in their toileting but this risk assessment must be recognised by parents.

## First Aid

School staff will be provided with appropriate PPE for administering first aid in an emergency should this be needed. For minor scrapes from falls, children will be encouraged and supported by their bubble adult to clean it themselves. If needed a parent will be called to come and take them home should the injury require a more substantial cleaning. Each bubble classroom will have a basic first aid kit for the bubble adults to use. We will have several non-bubble based staff who are first aid trained for support should this be needed – at all times your child will be cared for appropriately. Parents will be informed by phone call should we need to assist your child with an injury.

## Showing symptoms of COVID19 whilst in school:

If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in school, they will be looked after by school staff in a designated room (was the prayer room as the medical room is to be a designated toilet space). **We will contact you and you will have to collect your child immediately.** Your household will have to isolate and request testing for your child as soon as possible as per government guidance. The leadership team will support you in understanding how to access this. The pupil will remain at home until the test results are known – a picture of the result **MUST** be emailed to the Headteacher. The rest of that pupil's bubble and the staff working with that bubble will continue to the end of the school day but will be asked to remain at home from the end of that day until the results of the test are known. If it is a negative result all will be able to return the following day – you will be contacted. If it is sadly a positive test all will have to isolate for 14 days before being allowed back to school (pupils, their families and staff). In this way we are ensuring all pupils, the staff and all our families are at the least risk of an infection spread. We will, of course, be in touch with Public Health England should we have a positive test for their guidance on whether a whole school closure is needed and will communicate this with parents if needed.

## Pastoral Support and Safeguarding

Every member of staff will continue to ensure your child is cared for, understands the expectations on them and supported in the new school routines and expectations. The pupils will have many activities across the day to support their wellbeing in school, this is a planning focus for one of the staff team. We will always liaise with yourself if they are struggling with this so that we can work together to help this improve or to decide what the best course of action is for your child. We will continue to work with Catholic Care and will arrange support where this is needed.



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The school will continue to follow the Safeguarding Policy which can be found on the school website. This also has an addendum linked to the current COVID19 situation, agreed by governors at the last full governing body meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Provision will be made for children to report any concerns to a member of the safeguarding team who is not based in a bubble group should they request that. (DSL / DDSL).

## Cleaning

The school has a rolling cleaning programme throughout the school day, led by our super caretaker Mr Senior. During the school day, he will be focusing on the regular cleaning of the toilets as he will not be able to enter the bubble group classrooms. To limit the potential spread of the virus, all soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms as well as any resources which are likely to be too difficult to keep clean during the school day, as guided by the Government guidance to schools. Each classroom will have antibacterial wipes, sprays and cleaning cloths to be used as appropriate during the day by the bubble adults, especially surface cleaning. At the end of every day, the classrooms, corridors, toilets and other used areas will be carefully cleaned by the cleaning staff and caretaker. From 1:15 pm on a Friday all classroom spaces, toilets, corridors, hall and all other used spaces across the school will have a deep clean to ensure it is ready for the following week. The cleaning products that are used for a deep clean need longer to dry before pupils and staff are safely able to use that classroom again which is why we are doing the deep clean for all rooms on a Friday afternoon. This is a huge part of the risk assessment and in line with all other Catholic Primary schools. This will mean that school is closed for all pupils by 1:15 pm – this also means that staff have their planning and preparation time on Friday afternoon and we are not changing bubble groups teacher one day every other week. In this way, we are aiming to maintain the learning support on the website for most year groups as needed according to the numbers of each year group in school.

**Please see below our agreed staged and staggered school offer for the wider opening. This is subject to change due to risk assessments, regular full governing body meetings at every stage and any new advice.**



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## Organisation for the current wider opening offer:

The way these pupils arrive and leave school will be changing, in line with new guidance from June.

### New Offer to Critical Worker Pupils from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Updated arrangements for Critical Worker pupils in line with new guidance from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June as more children and adults in school:**

Bubble Group	Staff	Classroom / Provision area
Critical Workers CIRCLES bubble	Mrs Hasioszyn (Teacher) Mrs Dunne (ETA)	Class 3 – table for each child
Critical Workers SQUARES bubble	Mrs Walker (Teacher) Mrs Malone (Teacher - PM)	Class 4 – tables for each child
Critical Worker TRIANGLES bubble (If needed)	Mrs Cawtheray (Teacher)	Hall – tables for each child. (if needed)

Each of the pupils who have agreed childcare provision will be placed into a bubble group and whenever they are in school they will be in that bubble group. Each day the numbers in the group will change according to parent shift patterns, but always the same children and adult.

These pupils will have a double table each where they will sit completing a range of learning and different activities whenever they are inside. They will have time outside throughout the day on the playground or field within a rota – doing socially distanced outdoor games and activities planned and guided by our Sports/ PE leader Mrs Cawtheray, but led by their bubble group adults.

All Critical worker bubble groups will have access to the toilets on the Class 3 and 4 corridor but adults will ensure there is no mixing of the bubble groups by careful watching and markers for each group stuck on the outer door by an adult when a child from their bubble is inside.

If your child is in Reception or Year 1 they will now be within their year group offer arrangements.

**Full Governing Body meeting: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the transition into school so far and whether to agree on progressing to the next stage.**



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## Offer to Year 1 Pupils - initially planned for a staggered intake from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June

<b>Offer to Year 1 pupils: This will begin on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>		
<b>Bubble Group</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Classroom / Provision area</b>
Year 1 TIGERS bubble (from <b>08.06.20</b> )	Miss Bairstow (Teacher) Mrs Barber (ETA)	Class 1/2 – table for each child (up to 10 only - size of room)
Year 1 ELEPHANTS bubble (from <b>09.06.20</b> )	Miss Jeffel (Teacher) Mrs Godbold (ETA)	Class 1 – table for each child (up to 10 only - size of room)
Year 1 LIONS bubble (from <b>10.06.20</b> )	Mrs Morgan (Teacher) Mrs Cowban / Mrs Loveday (ETA)	Class 6 – with Year 1 tables, one for each child (up to 12 only as a larger room)

Year 1 pupils will have a double table each where they will sit completing a range of learning and different activities whenever they are inside. They will have time outside throughout the day on the playground or field within a rota – doing socially distanced outdoor games and activities planned and guided by our Sports/ PE leader Mrs Cawtheray, but led by their bubble group adults.

All of the Year 1 bubble groups will have access to the toilets in that area of school but adults will ensure there is no mixing of the bubble groups by careful watching and markers for each group stuck on the outer door by an adult when a child from their bubble is inside.

**Full Governing Body meeting: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June to discuss transition into school so far and if there is an agreement to progress to the next stage.**

## Offer to Reception Pupils - initially planned for a staggered intake from Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

<b>Offer to Reception pupils: This will begin on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>		
<b>Bubble Group</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Classroom / Provision area</b>
Reception BLUE bubble (from <b>16.06.20</b> )	Miss Blanchfield (EYFS Leader) Mrs Redick (ETA)	Half of the EYFS Unit partitioned off – staggered access to an EYFS outdoor area
Reception YELLOW bubble (from <b>17.06.20</b> )	Mrs Cheetham (ETYFS Teacher) Mrs Greenwood (ETA)	Class 2 – used as an EYFS provision- staggered access to an EYFS outdoor area
Reception RED bubble (from <b>18.06.20</b> )	Mrs Hallahan (Nursery Nurse) Mrs Marsden (ETA)	Half of the EYFS Unit partitioned off – staggered access to an EYFS outdoor area



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Reception pupils will continue to have a provision based learning experience with an increasing aspect of focus learning at tables as appropriate at this time of year preparing for Year 1. There will be significantly reduced resources available to them. It MUST be recognised that within the “bubble groups” they will be socialising with the other pupils in their bubble only and being supported by staff – being careful and sensible with social distancing so that all are as safe as possible without causing too much distress to the very young pupils.

It WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE to maintain the 2m social distancing within Reception provisions. A careful hand hygiene routine will be in place with regular hand washing and reminding pupils to keep their hands away from their faces.

The partitioning between the two bubble groups in the EYFS Unit will include a gap where nobody can access to keep them a good distance apart.

BLUE bubble group and RED bubble group will use the Reception toilets but adults will ensure this is without the bubble groups mixing.

YELLOW bubble group will be using the toilet in the medical room, being taken by one of their bubble adults who remains outside the room.

## Drop off and Collection times:

Unfortunately, we are limited by the entrances to the school grounds. Our risk assessment has concluded that the pedestrian gate would be too much of a risk of infection spread and therefore the arrangements below are the best and safest option we have, maintaining the advised 15-minute slot for each bubble, although I would agree not easy.

Bubble Group	Drop off time – by school drive double gate	Collection time – by school drive double gate <b>Monday to Thursday only</b>	Collection time – by school drive double gate <b>FRIDAY only</b>
Critical Workers CIRCLES bubble	9:00am	3:15pm	1:15pm
Critical Workers SQUARES bubble	8:45 am	3:00pm	1pm
Critical Workers TRIANGLES bubble (if needed)	Not needed at this time.		



# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

Telephone: 01924 423220

Website: [www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk](http://www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk)

Email: [office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk)

Mrs C Moulding – Head Teacher

Miss J Smith – Deputy Head



Bubble Group	Drop off time – by school drive double gate	Collection time – by school drive double gate <b>Monday to Thursday only</b>	Collection time – by school drive double gate <b>FRIDAY only</b>
Year 1 TIGERS bubble group	10am	2: 45pm	12:15pm
Year 1 ELEPHANTS bubble group	10:15am	3:30pm	12:30pm
Year 1 LION bubble group	10:30am	3:45pm	12:45pm
We will confirm the times for the Reception groups through a news post on the School APP before the start date, once it has been trialled with the Critical Worker and Year 1 groups.			
Reception BLUE bubble group	9:15am	2:00pm	11:30am
Reception YELLOW bubble group	9:45am	2:15pm	11:45am
Reception RED bubble group	9:30am	2:30pm	12:00pm

**There will be NO opportunity to speak to staff as we need this to be swift and efficient so it is safe for all and we ask that you ring the office if you have any information to pass on. Thank you.**

Once in school through their classroom fire doors, the bubble will remain in that designated room. This will be their base. Within their base, children will be expected to adhere to the social distancing as near to 2m distance at all times. (It is recognised that this will not be possible for Reception). The seating arrangements and set up will be different from what they may have been used to before the school closure. The bubble will be allocated times throughout the day when they can go outside and a time when they can have lunch. These will be staggered so as not to coincide with any other bubble in school. No hot meals will be served, instead, a school packed lunch (hot or cold sandwich) will be brought to the group's designated room. Alternatively, you may send your child with a packed lunch from home and a water bottle. No other items are allowed to be brought from home. The only time a pupil will leave their base is to visit the toilet one at a time. There will be NO movement on the corridors.

The collection of your child will be very similar to drop off at the entrance to the school drive – the pupils will be in social distance positioning with an adult on the playground and when their adult is at the front of the line their child will be called to leave. **Parents MUST arrive in their time slot** or the offer will not be able to continue for health and safety reasons. There will be new signs and displays attached to the fencing at the bottom of the school grounds to support parents with the expectations and the social distancing. **If any information needs passing to parents at the end of the day, it will be done by phone once all pupils have left.**



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Once you have read all parts of this letter, I am sure you will have concluded that our agreed approach to opening school is very cautious with the safety of all as a guiding principle. Whilst evidence points to the fact that the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people is generally mild, there has been no evidence presented yet which indicates children do not transmit this virus between each other or to adults, particularly if they are asymptomatic. Our cautious approach reflects the importance we place on the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and your families - our whole school community.

I hope you feel confident in the wider offer we put forward following the collection of pupil numbers and the knowledge that our uptake is believed to be significantly higher than the vast majority of other schools. Following your initial decision to indicate the first option to send you child back please let us know if you now intend to keep to that decision or wait for a few weeks to see how effective it is and possibly return at the next stage, currently planned for July. For those who have indicated the second option, we will make contact with you in a few weeks for you to decide if a return for the final few weeks, in the next stage of the roadmap is to be requested. We will send out a personalised letter to each Year of bubble groups before the days they start so you are clear with the expectations and new procedures.

I would like to say a huge thanks to the staff, governors and yourselves for the support and understanding you have shown through this very difficult period of our lives. As a staff, we love our jobs and the pupils for whom we work so hard and will do everything we possibly can to make this work for them and you, our school family. We truly look forward to the time when normality is resumed and we can have all our wonderful pupils in school again and life in St Patrick's can go back to being it's friendly, social and happy learning school.

Keep safe.

With Kind Regards always

Mrs C Moulding

Headteacher

Mrs C Wiles

Chair of Governors

