



St. Austin's Catholic Primary School – A Voluntary Catholic Academy
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Interim Headteacher: Mr. John Molyneux

Chair of Academy Council: Mrs. Michelle Selway

Friday 5th June 2020



Sunday's feast of **The Most Holy Trinity** invites us to live in the awareness of the presence of God in three persons within us: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. There is one God, who has three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each Person is God, yet there is still only one God. We have the Father who is the Creator, the Son who is the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit who is the Sanctifier and the Counsellor – One God. The belief held and taught by the Church, of Three Persons in one God, co-equal and co-eternal yet distinct in Person, is not explicitly spelt out in the Bible. Even the very word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. But the Trinity underlies all major Christian feasts, including Christmas, the Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost.

All the official prayers of the Church, including the Holy Mass, begin with an address to the Holy Trinity: "*In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*" We are baptized, absolved of our sins and anointed in the name of the Blessed Trinity. We bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross, invoking the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and we conclude our prayers glorifying the Holy Trinity, saying "*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*" We believe that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us, so that we can share in the life and loving relationship of the Holy Trinity – forever.

Partial reopening of school

Our plans to partially reopen our school in line with government guidance have been approved by the Trust.

A significant amount of information can be found on our website homepage. Documents include our reopening plan, the risk assessment document, a guide for parents and a useful one-page summary.

Our school has been open since the 23rd March for children of key workers and those with specific vulnerabilities. We are now reopening further for our UFS, Y1 and Y6 children. We have contacted the majority of parents of children in these year groups this week. We continue to encourage all parents to **do what is best for them**. Some parents have indicated that their child will definitely be returning, others have told us that they will not be sending their child back yet and, understandably, many remain undecided.

As the various documents on the website state, school will look and feel very different. Social distancing measures have been put in place in all areas. These include: separate entrances for each year group due to return, one way systems for parents and children to enter and exit the site safely, clear markings on the playgrounds showing the children where to stand (2 metres apart from each other), hand sanitisation stations, re-ordered classrooms and many other stark changes to what we used to know as 'normal.'

Whilst this may seem stark it has been done to maintain the safety of everyone in school. Staff are looking forward to seeing the children again and intend to make the children's time in school as fun and enjoyable as possible. Assuming the weather is kind to us, we will make use of our school grounds so that learning can take place outside as well as inside. We will strive to create a happy and positive atmosphere in all classrooms.

Another significant change is that start and finish times. These will be staggered to ensure each group of children can enter and exit the site safely. **School will also close at lunchtime every Friday.** This will enable us to thoroughly clean the classrooms and resources in readiness for the following week. It will also allow all staff to have their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time. This arrangement has been in place for many years. **We kindly ask that all parents familiarise themselves with these new arrangements and ensure they adhere to them.**

If you are a key worker and have a child in UFS, Y1 or Y6, you might like to consider requesting a place in the Key Worker Group **INSTEAD OF sending your child back into their year group.** There is no staggered start or finishing time for this group and it operates from 8.30am until 3.30pm **EVERY DAY of the week.** This **might** be the most appropriate option for you, but **YOU MUST** be able to provide us with proof that you are a critical key worker and **ONLY USE** this provision on the days when you are at work during the school day. This facility is open to children of all year groups **BUT ONLY IF THEIR PARENTS ARE KEY WORKERS AND THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE PROVISION.**

If you require further guidance or information, please email headteacher@sa.bkcat.co.uk or telephone the school office.

Learning Opportunities

Learning will resume again from Monday 8th June onwards both at school and at home.

- If your child is in school because they are attending the Key Worker Group, they have been identified as having specific vulnerabilities or are in UFS, Y1 or Y6, learning will take place **in school**.
- Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will remain learning at home for the time being. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will receive information about their timetable of work from school via Groupcall on **Monday 8th June**.
- All Y2 children will have a pack of work for the next six weeks. Hopefully, parents of children in this year group have already collected their child's pack from the school office this week.
- For those children, irrespective of their year group, who have worked from paper-packs previously, they will continue to be provided with paper packs.
- Log in codes are being provided to all parents to enable our children to access on online reading scheme – Bug Club. For many children, these have been sent out via Seesaw.
- If your child is in UFS, Y1 or Y6 **AND YOU WILL NOT BE SENDING THEM BACK TO SCHOOL NEXT WEEK**, work will be made available to you. Please contact the school office **BY TELEPHONE** if this applies to you.

FROM TUESDAY 9TH JUNE OUR SCHOOL OFFICE WILL NOT BE OPEN. COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL FROM THIS DATE WILL BE VIA TELEPHONE OR EMAIL ONLY.

Looking ahead to next week

School will be closed to **all pupils** (except those attending the Key Worker Group or those with specific vulnerabilities) on Monday 8th June. This is to allow **all** staff to take part in a very important INSET day which will ensure that we are fully prepared for our phased reopening.

On Tuesday morning, with a staggered start, we will welcome back our UFS children. As they have been away from school for over two months, we have made the decision to allow them to experience their first two days back in school without any other pupils present. We know that school will feel and look very different to them. These two days will also give parents the opportunity to start to become familiar with the new drop off and pick up arrangements. They will then continue to attend school for the remainder of the week.

On Thursday morning, also with a staggered start, we will welcome back our Y1 and Y6 children. There will be new routines for all parents and children to familiarise themselves with, all of which is explained in detail in the documents on our school website homepage.

School will close to **all** pupils (except those attending the Key Worker Group or those with specific vulnerabilities) **after lunch** on Friday afternoon. The details of all staggered start and finish times for each year group can be found in the document (School start and finish times) which is on our website.

Once all children and parents have safely left the site, the staff will review the week and modify any routines or systems if necessary.

It will certainly be a very different week, but hopefully a successful week too. We are moving into a new phase of dealing with life as it is now. The newness will soon become the norm and we will, once again, settle into new routines.

Free School Meals Assistance

Some of our families have been receiving Free School Meals Vouchers in recent months. It is our understanding that the Government are continuing to offer these vouchers to families whose children **are not in school and therefore learning from home**. If your child returns to school, you will **no longer be eligible to receive the voucher FOR THAT CHILD** as they will be provided with a free school meal from our school kitchen.

If your financial circumstances have changed as a result of the impact of Covid-19, you may be eligible to claim for free school meals. Please visit our website homepage and use the two links to download a Free School Meals Application Form and accompanying Transparency Notice if you would like to submit an application.

The staff and Academy Council of St. Austin's thank you for continuing to work positively with us as we embark on this new phase. Thank you for taking the time to read the information that we have shared with you this week. We wish all our families a restful weekend.