



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
A Voluntary Academy

Headteacher:
Mrs L. M. Kelly, B.Ed.



2nd September, 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and enjoyed spending time as a family. I am writing to remind you of the arrangements for opening during the Autumn term. The majority of the information in this letter was shared before the summer holiday, this is just a reminder to help you prepare for your child's return to school. The only change is to our procedure to changing for PE, you will find details of this within the letter.

As I am sure you have seen in media coverage; for the vast majority of time children will be in a class bubble. This is their usual class of 30 children. Members of staff are able to move around school but must remain where possible at a 2-meter distance. When in a class bubble and with the class teacher or teaching assistant assigned to a bubble the staff and children do not need to social distance. The bubble will remain together in class and on the playground.

A reminder that on **Thursday 3rd September** we welcome back Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 **only**
And on **Friday 4th September** we welcome back Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 **only**

Children will arrive and enter school from different gates. Please see the table below to find the gate your children should be dropped off at and collected from. At the end of the school day we will operate a staggered finish.

Children in Years 1 – 6 can arrive from **8:30am to 9:00am**.
Children in Nursery and Reception can arrive from **9:05am – 9:20am**.

Class	Arrive	Finish	Calve Croft Road Gate	Carling Drive Gate
Nursery	9:05 – 9:20	3:05		✓
Reception	9:05 – 9:20	3:05	✓	
Year 1	8:30 – 9:00	2:55	✓	
Year 2	8:30 – 9:00	3:00	✓	
Year 3	8:30 – 9:00	2:45	✓	
Year 4	8:30 – 9:00	2:45		✓
Year 5	8:30 – 9:00	2:55		✓
Year 6	8:30 – 9:00	3:00		✓

Parents in Years 1 – 6 will not be able to come onto the school premises and must leave their child at the designated gate. Parents of children in Nursery and Reception will be able to accompany their child to the Foundation Stage



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playground to help the children settle; whilst observing social distancing. Members of staff will be at each gate to meet children each morning, take messages and answer any queries.

Please note: our plans will be reviewed regularly.

School Lunches

In line with government guidance throughout the school day children will be remaining with their class. Because of this we are unable to use our hall at lunchtime. Children who receive Free School Meals and all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a school picnic style lunch provided from our school canteen. Children in Nursery, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 who are not entitled to a Free School Meal need to bring a packed lunch. This must be in a **disposable bag**.

School Equipment

Children are not allowed to bring in school rucksacks, backpacks, pencil cases, bikes, scooters, packed lunch boxes or any other items from home. Children are allowed to bring a water bottle to school, this should be clearly labelled.

Children will be given a folder to keep their reading book and reading record in.

PE

We will be taking part in our usual PE sessions. Children in Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 are now expected to come to school **wearing their PE kit every Wednesday**. Our PE kit is the same as last year, a plain white round neck t-shirt and plain black shorts. As the winter sets in children may wear plain black/ navy jogging bottoms. Children should also wear their school jumper which they will remove when taking part in their PE lesson.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear full school uniform. Children should wear black school shoes. Children should only have shoe laces if they are able to tie them independently.

Guidance has changed for the washing of school uniform; parents are now asked to wash their child's school uniform as you normally would following your usual washing routine.

Attendance

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was increasing, the Department for Education made it clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development



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Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both Primary and Secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

Illness

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or a member of your household have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19.

If a child becomes unwell in school, they will be cared for by a member of staff in a ventilated room until a parent or carer is able to collect them. You will be asked to arrange a COVID-19 test and if this is returned positive then the staff and children in the class bubble will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days as per the government guidance.

If a bubble is asked to isolate online learning will be provided on Tapestry for the 14-day period.

Staff will only wear PPE when looking after a child who is unwell.

Face Coverings

I am sure you will all be aware of the press coverage for use of face coverings in areas of 'local restrictions' which Manchester currently is. However, face coverings are not required in Primary schools for either staff or children. Current DfE guidance states:

Based on current evidence and the measures which schools have already put in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings are not necessary in the classroom. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to welcoming all children back in the coming days. Our children have always been resilient and we are confident they will quickly become used to the changes in school. As always, our staff will continue to support our children for a safe and happy return to school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Kelly
Headteacher