

To work is to pray



Newsletter 1 – September 2021

Welcome Back & Hello!

I'd like to extend my warmest wishes to all of our families, as we prepare to welcome your children back to school on Tuesday 7th September. (*Reception starters have designated start times, which may be different!*) I am delighted to be part of this wonderful school community and am looking forward to meeting you all as we hope to loosen restrictions over the next few weeks and months; *all being well of course!* We welcome Miss Jackson to our team this year – she will be completing her teacher training with us and will be based across the school throughout the forthcoming year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Stephenson, our fabulous caretaker, for all of his hard work over the summer months. The school has been cleaned and painted; ready for your children to return!

The following newsletter will outline a few things that we hope will answer any questions you may have about the reopening of our school. Further information will be shared with you in due course as and when we receive it from the Trust and the DfE.

With every best wish,
Mrs Clarke

Covid Risk Assessment

The updated version of our Risk Assessment will be made available on our school website today (Monday 6th September) and reflects current government advice.

'Bubbles'

Government guidelines indicate that there is no longer a need for 'bubbles' within schools, although we will relax the contact between classes on a gradual basis throughout September.

Class bubbles will no longer need to close if there is a positive case of Covid, *however* close contacts will be required to take a PCR test (if

prompted by NHS Test & Trace). A different approach may be required if there are multiple cases but we will work alongside the Local Authority and Public Health in this instance.

LFD & PCR Tests

Government guidance indicates that primary-aged children should not be tested using an LFD test. If your child is symptomatic, or has been advised to get a test through NHS Test & Trace, as they were a close contact to someone who tested positive, you should arrange for them to have a PCR test. We would request that any positive cases are reported to us as a matter of urgency, using the school email:

st.bedes.rc.sacrison@durhamlearning.net

Face Coverings

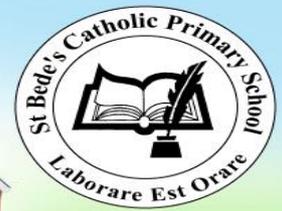
The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. All visitors into school including parents, professionals and contractors will all be required to wear a face covering unless they are exempt.

Hand Hygiene, Coughs & Sneezes!

Hand washing and sanitisation will continue to have a high profile within our school routines. Happy Taps are available in each classroom to avoid congestion in toilets at busy times of the day. Additionally, children and adults entering school will be required to sanitise their hands on entry to the building. Sanitiser is available throughout the building.

Tissues will be available throughout the school and pupils will be reminded of the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' rule when they sneeze, as well as being encouraged to wash their hands!

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Drop Offs & Pick Ups

When you drop your child(ren) off at the school gates, they will go straight into school and into their respective classrooms, where staff will be ready to meet them. Children will be able to arrive from 8:45am and the gates will be locked at 8:55am to allow staff to return to class. As in previous years, we would ask that parents do not come on to the school yard at this time. Should you wish to speak to a member of staff we would encourage you to mention it to the member of staff at the school gate(s) or call the school office to make an appointment.

To ensure the safety of all of our children, we will be trialling a new system at the end of the school day. Each class will be led out of school by their respective teacher and line up in their allotted space on the yard. ***Infant classes will leave at 3:15pm and junior classes at 3:20pm to avoid congestion.***

- Class 1 & Class 2– yard by the church car park
- Class 3 & Class 4 - top yard
(These will be clearly marked)

We would ask that parents stand around the perimeter of the yard, *and do not stand on the steps between the two yards.* When children are lined up, the staff member will be able to send your child(ren) to you. *If you have children in both infant and junior classes, please collect your infant child and then move round onto the top yard to wait for your older child.* The safety of all of our children is really important to us and we hope that this method will help a smoother end to the school day.

May we also take the opportunity to remind you that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

NB: Permission slips will be sent home to children in Class 4 **ON TUESDAY** for parents to sign and return if they wish their child to walk home alone. We will not send any child home

alone unless we are in receipt of this or have received express permission from their parent.

Breaktimes & Lunchtimes

Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered slightly to ease congestion on the yard(s) and in toilets. Staff and pupils will still move carefully around school and avoid crossing in corridors etc.

Class 1 & Class 2

- Morning break - 10:30-11:45
- Lunchtime - 11:45-1:00
- Afternoon break - 2:00-2:10

Class 3 & Class 4

- Morning Break - 10:45-11:00
- Lunchtime - 12:00-1:00
- Afternoon Break - 2:10-2:20

Cashless School

We are a cashless school and we use SchoolMoney for school payments. Mrs Daynes will send out account information to families of our new Reception Class starters.

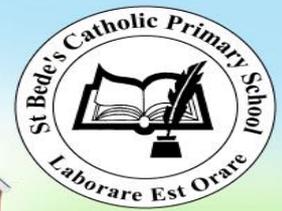
School Dinners

School lunches will be available from the date pupils return. School dinners cost £2.15 (weekly £10.75) unless you are eligible for Free School Meals. If you feel this may apply to you, please contact the school office who will be able to assist you. All Infant dinners are free of charge. Please note that all dinner monies should be paid for via our cashless payment system. *If children wish to change from school dinners to packed lunches, please note that the kitchen staff require 2 weeks notice.*

PE Days

Children should come into school wearing their full school PE Kit on days where they have PE (*School PE t-shirt, black or navy jogging bottoms/school burgundy shorts, white or non-marking soled trainers if possible*). This worked well last year, saving much lesson time as well as balancing out the 'wear and tear' on school

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shoes, whilst also preventing items going missing.

PE days are as follows:

- Class 1: Wednesday and Friday
- Class 2: Tuesday and Thursday
- Class 3: Monday
- Class 4: Monday and Thursday

There may be additional days throughout the year and we will aim to give parents as much notice as possible of these opportunities.

Class 3 also have swimming on Tuesday (starting on 14/9/21) and should bring their swimming kit, including swimming hat and towel with them in a small bag on these days.

In-line with school policy, earrings must not be worn. If your child has had their ears pierced during the school holidays, they must come to school with them taped over until the 6 week period is up and they can be removed.

Early Risers Club

This will resume on Monday 13th September from 8am in the School Hall each morning. No pre-booking is required. Each session is £2, payable via the SchoolMoney system. Children will be able to access general craft/reading activities supervised by a staff member until 8:45am when they will be sent to their classes ready for the school day.

After School Clubs

We aim to start after school clubs next week and will try to ensure there is something on offer for all, without compromising the safety of our pupils by relaxing the 'bubbles' too quickly. Watch out for the after-school clubs letter which will be sent home later this week. All monies for these clubs will be payable via the SchoolMoney system.

School Uniform

Please ensure every item of your child's school uniform is clearly labelled with their name. Often, when items go missing or get mixed up it can be very difficult to track things down. As a parent I know all too well how much things cost and how frustrating it can be when they go missing! Hopefully – this can be avoided!

Equipment

Children will be provided with all the equipment they need in order to complete their work in class. Please do not send any pencil cases etc. into school. Any equipment you have bought, will be a big help in terms of homework. We hope you will support us with this, as we try everything possible to prevent any potential outbreaks.

Children are permitted to bring a water bottle, which should be clearly named and filled with water (not juice). This will be taken home each day so it can be washed. Teachers will remind your children about this.

Curriculum Information

We hope to arrange an informal 'Meet the Teacher' session soon. We will confirm this date closer to the time, as we wait and see what happens when schools return. In the meantime, curriculum information for your child(ren) and what they will be learning this term, will be uploaded on to our website in the next week or so.

Homework

Teachers will begin to set homework from the week beginning 13th September; uploaded via Seesaw. Class teachers will indicate when this will need to be completed. Reading books will hopefully be sent home before the end of this week.