

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – September 2020

When will the children start back at school?

- Children in Years 1 to 6 will start back at school on Thursday 3rd September.
- The new children who are joining Nursery and Reception will start a phased entry programme from 3rd September. Hilary House pupils will also have a phased entry starting 3rd September.

Do they need to wear uniform?

- Yes, we expect all children to wear full uniform. (See uniform policy on the school website).
- Children are permitted to bring a bag to school, however, they are not allowed to bring unnecessary items from home. All items **MUST** have your child's name clearly marked on them.

What happens if I need to use public transport to travel to school?

- If you use public transport to travel to and from school, all adults and children over the age of 11 must wear a face covering. Face coverings are not to be worn by children in school.

How should we travel to school?

- We encourage all parents to walk or cycle to school where possible to reduce congestion, help the local environment and improve the children's fitness.

What measures are in place to reduce mass gatherings of parents and children at the start and end of school?

- Staggered start and finish times will be applied for all children. Please see the attached letter from July that lists all timings, routines and drop off and collection points.
- Parents must not congregate around the school site before or after school. All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus and because they are role models for the children about how to behave in public places.
- It is essential that all children arrive and leave punctually at their designated start and finish times.

I use a childminder to drop-off and collect my child, what arrangements are in place for them?

- The childminder must drop-off and collect your child according to the staggered start/end time schedule. It is the responsibility of parents to share the details with childminders and make sure they are clear about the arrangements.

Drop off and collection at Breakfast and After School Club

- Children who attend Breakfast Club must be dropped-off at the main school reception by an adult and handed over to a member of the Breakfast Club team. Parents should wait until temperature readings have been taken. There is currently a reduced number of places for Breakfast Club as a result of Covid 19 precautions.

All enquiries regarding Fruity Club should be sent directly to John Cronin, as this is an independent provision, separate to the school.

There will be no after school clubs in the Autumn term. This will be reviewed regularly as the term progresses.

What hygiene measures are in place? What are you doing to keep the school clean?

- We have hygiene kits in each classroom, including cleaning products and equipment. Surfaces are cleaned regularly and all equipment is cleaned in between use.
- We have an extra cleaner on site each day
- We have removed lots of the equipment and items from the rooms to ensure surfaces are easily cleaned.
- Most soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms.
- Children are expected to wash their hands/use hand sanitiser multiple times throughout the day; members of staff will be available to support and supervise hand washing where it is appropriate, and we have visual reminders in all the toilets and sink areas to promote good hand washing.
- We will teach and remind children of good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it).

How will you make sure children are socially distant with each other?

- Children have been organised into year group bubbles for most of their time in school.
- Playtimes will be staggered so that fewer children are outside the classrooms. Our playground will be split using barriers to create smaller areas for each class to play in. This way, the groups will not routinely mix with each other. Each group will have their own play equipment in their zone and their supervising adult will initiate games with the children.
- Children will not move around the site as much as they used to, however, when they do, they will be reminded by visuals and staff to maintain a distance.
- We recognise that social distancing with the younger children is a challenge so we will remind them regularly about it, but we cannot guarantee that it can be maintained. The government guidance states that schools do not need to insist on social distancing with the younger children. We want our children to learn through play and interaction with others.

How will staff social distance?

- Staff will continue to maintain 1m+ social distancing wherever possible. Our staffroom will not be used for staff to congregate and our school office is out of bounds to all but a few members of our team.
- We will not allow visitors or parents into the school building to maintain good social distancing, however, we are still available to talk to parents either over the phone or via the school admin email.

What will the classrooms look like?

- The classrooms do look a bit sparser than they usually do, this is so that the surfaces are easily cleaned.
- In Years 1 to 6, the desks have been arranged into front facing rows.
- Teachers are planning learning activities that reduce the need for close face to face interaction.
- Adults will give feedback to the children at the adults' level rather than the adult moving to the child's level where possible.
- In Reception and Year 1, we will allow a more 'free flow' approach to the provision so that the children can learn through play. In Year 1, the children will sit in front facing rows as part of their transition from Reception. They will be allowed to sit on the carpet in small groups but will be expected to distance themselves as much as possible.

What equipment will be available to the children? What will they need to bring from home?

- All children will be given their own pencil case with their own equipment because they are not allowed to share equipment such as pens and pencils.
- Any equipment that does need to be shared will be cleaned thoroughly in between uses.
- Children will be expected to bring a named water bottle to school. This will stay on their desk to reduce movement around the classroom from Y2 onwards.
- Reading books will be sent home. They will be cleaned after they have been returned and will only be permitted to go back onto bookshelves after 72 hours.

PE kit will be required.

Do the normal school rules and expectations still apply?

- Absolutely! We have very high behaviour expectations at Sacred Heart. Some children may need additional support and guidance to meet the expectations and we have staff who can help with this. The updated Behaviour Management Policy is available on the school website.
- It would be very useful for parents to begin to talk to their child about the school expectations and routines before the start of the Autumn Term
- If the bedtime routine has not been maintained, we strongly recommend parents begin to re-establish this important routine as soon as possible.

How will you make sure the children settle into their new class? How are you going to support their wellbeing after such a difficult time?

- Transition and Meet the Teacher videos were posted on Class Dojo in July. New starters were sent clips via email.
- The activities for the first two days of term will be planned to support the transition for everyone. We understand lots of our children will not have been in school for over five months, so the teachers are

planning to take their time to make sure the children can settle in. The children will revisit school and class rules, good hand washing and hygiene practices and spend some time discussing how they feel about their return to school. They will have opportunities to share their positive thoughts and emotions, their worries and how they felt during lockdown and the school closure period.

How will you help the children to 'catch up'?

- Our priority is around wellbeing and health.
- When the children have settled in, their teachers will assess them in the first few weeks and will plan support for anyone who needs additional help in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- All teachers have reviewed the curriculum and adjusted plans so that it enables the children to repeat aspects they may need to, but also supports rapid progress.
- Summer work was set for all children over the summer holidays to keep them ticking over ready for September.

What will happen at lunchtime?

- The normal lunch menu from Edwards and Ward will resume.
- Hot lunches will be served and children will eat with the rest of their year group bubble. As normal, lunches can be paid for through Parentmail, unless a child is eligible for FSM (free school meals). All children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free lunch under the universal FSM offer.
- Lunch will be served in the hall for Y1-6. Nursery, Reception and Hilary House will use a spare classroom to eat their lunch.

All seats and tables will be wiped down between each bubble. Windows and doors will be open to ensure good ventilation.

- Children can bring a packed lunch; parents must ensure the lunch box is cleaned thoroughly every day.
- We do encourage all children to have a school meal, because they are fresh and nutritionally well balanced.
- Like morning playtime, each group/ class will have their own section on the playground and they will not be allowed to mix with other groups of children.

What is happening about Breakfast and After School Clubs?

- We can only offer a very limited number of places in Breakfast Club because we cannot mix large groups of children. We offer Breakfast Club from 8.00am. Please contact Daniella Magnavacca in the school office if you would like to enquire about a place.
- Our after-school clubs are popular and we know lots of children will want to join them, so, as soon as it is safe for us, we will resume a full menu of after school clubs for all children.

What happens if a child gets ill in my child's group?

- No child or adult showing signs of Covid 19 symptoms are allowed on the premises.
- Staff and pupils are required to have immediate tests if they show symptoms. If a child is sent home with symptoms, we expect parents to arrange a test for the child. We will request the outcome of a test result before the child is allowed back to school.
- Thermometers will be used if any child or adult displays symptoms and their temperature will be recorded. (Temperatures will be taken before a child is admitted to the site each morning by staff. This is one strategy to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid 19 within the school community).
- Any child who displays symptoms of Covid 19 must be collected immediately and we expect parents and families to make provision if they are not based in the local area during the school day. When the child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with a window.
- The adult supervising the child will wear full PPE clothing when dealing with a suspected case; this includes a face mask, face shield/ visor, apron and gloves.

What if my child, or one of our family members, becomes ill?

- If any child in school tests positive for Covid, every child and member of staff in their group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If a member of a child's household tests positive for Covid, the child and the household members must self-isolate for 14 days. The other children and staff in the child's group do not have to self-isolate.

What do I do if I have been on holiday to a country outside of the agreed travel corridor list?

You will need to self-isolate if you visited or made a transit stop in a country or territory that is not on the travel corridor list. This applies to all travel to England, by train, ferry, coach, air or any other route. This means that all members of the household should self isolate for 14 days. Parents/Carers should notify the school immediately, so the absence can be recorded accurately. The most up to date guidance on travel corridors can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors#updates-to-the-travel-corridor-list>

What if I live with an extremely clinically vulnerable household member? What if my child is still shielding?

Contact the school office so that an appropriate risk assessment can be carried out.

- The government guidance states that all children will be expected to attend school from September. We want to work with any parents who are worried, to reassure you that we are taking every precaution to keep our community safe.

Please do not enter the school site if your child or member of the household is displaying Covid 19 symptoms.