



St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Headteacher:
Mrs L Prestidge
Tel: 01634 371892
Email: office@staugustine.medway.sch.uk

Deanwood Drive
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent
ME8 9NP

29th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good Half Term break. Following the Government announcement last night; I am writing to share with you further details regarding our phased reopening starting with Year R and Key Worker/Vulnerable children on Monday 1st June.

The safety of our children, staff and wider community is of paramount importance. We have been working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of COVID-19 transmitting within our school. We have and will continue to make our best efforts; it is important that you understand that children (even older children) will not be able to social distance; this is clearly not achievable in a primary school; however, protective measures including hygiene and keeping groups of children together with staff and having staggered drop off and collection times will be in place to help minimise the risk. As I am sure you understand; these are protective measures and not guarantees; our Risk Assessment and procedures will be reviewed and amended if necessary.

As I outlined in my letter last Friday, some of the protective measures we are implementing are: **Staggered arrival and departure.**

Staggered arrival		
8:45am	8:55am	9:05am
Sibling groups	Junior - Critical Worker/Vulnerable children	Infant - Critical Worker/Vulnerable children and Year R
Staggered release		
3:10pm	3:20pm	3:30pm
Sibling groups	Infant Critical Worker/Vulnerable and Year R	Junior Critical Worker/Vulnerable
Friday Staggered release		
1pm	1:10pm	1:15pm
Sibling groups	Infant Critical Worker/Vulnerable and Year R	Junior Critical Worker/Vulnerable

- School will be open Monday to Friday, closing at **1pm** on Friday afternoons to all children to allow for an additional thorough clean and teachers can be given time to plan and prepare;
- Families must use the main school gate for site access (the alleyway gate will not be opened). Parents must follow the one-way system through the staff car park to drop off and collect your child(ren) on the playground;
- Families must remain 2m away from other families during drop off and collection of children;



- Only one adult per child is permitted on the school grounds for drop off and collection. Parents must not gather at entrance gates or playground. If you have younger siblings with you during drop off or collection you must keep them with you and not allow them to run around the playground or go on the equipment;
- The children will line up on their Year group line on the playground and walk to you when you reach the front of the 'queue'. We ask that you leave the playground promptly;
- The use of scooters and/or bicycles are not permitted;
- Parents/Carers are NOT permitted to enter the school building. If you need to speak to a member of staff please email the office or class email address and they will respond;
- Everyone must wash their hands (soap/water or hand sanitiser) on entry to the school. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use hand sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered;
- Children must bring in their own water bottles (labelled);
- Chartwells will provide cold packed lunches in place of hot food (this will be reviewed regularly). Children who bring in their own lunch from home must use a disposable lunch bag (no packed lunch boxes from home), which will be thrown away after lunch;
- Children should not bring in a bag or any equipment from home;
- Children should have long lasting sun cream applied in the morning at home;
- Children will be assigned school equipment for their own use - no need for pencil cases etc from home;
- Staggered break and lunch times. The children will stay with their group throughout the day;
- Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the school. Groups in EYFS will be no larger than 8 and the rest of the school groups will not exceed 10. This will be reviewed weekly in line with our Risk Assessment and in line with Government updates and further information;
- Accessing classrooms directly from outside where possible;
- One-way circulation/dividers down the middle of the corridor to keep groups apart if they move through the school;
- Outside Play Activity Centre will not be in use;
- Lessons to promote children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the school;
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and equipment.

Children or adults who display symptoms

Children or adults who display coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, **must not attend school.**

Parents must inform the school immediately if your child is not in school due to COVID-19 symptoms.

If your child presents with symptoms whilst in school they must be collected **immediately** (please ensure we have up to date contact details). When a child is waiting for collection they will be in a separate room from the other children and staff. When you collect your child you will be asked to wait at the green security gate and not enter the school - your child will walk out to you upon your arrival. Ensure you organise a test for your child and notify us immediately of a positive or negative



test. Further guidance is available about [getting tested](#).

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children who are attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested.

Virtual Learning

We have been able to offer high-quality remote education opportunities over recent weeks. Now that our school will be opening more widely, staff will be needed to provide face-to-face teaching at school. This means that it will be more difficult to maintain the same level of remote education.

VLE learning will be uploaded weekly by the teachers; Oak National Academy, BBC Bitesize, Mathletics, Phonicsplay will all remain available. We also have an extensive Home Learning support pencil on our website to support families who are learning remotely. Teachers will still access their class email although, they may not be able to respond on the same day due to teaching commitments.

Uniform

As many of the children may have grown out of their school uniform/shoes; they are permitted to wear their own clothes. Children will need to be dressed comfortably and ready for physical activity outside so trainers are suggested.

Transport

We are encouraging parents and children to walk or cycle to school where possible. Parents and carers are not permitted to use the staff car park and must safely on the road.

Department for Transport travelling advice for parents and pupils

The Department for Transport has issued advice on how parents and pupils can travel to school safely as part of the #TravelSafely campaign. Resources have been developed to ensure that parents, pupils and staff have the information they need to stay safe on the public transport network. This includes information developed in collaboration with respected partners on how to cycle and walk safely, where possible.

Resources can be found here:

<https://extranet.dft.gov.uk/safer-transport-campaign/schools/>

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children in Year R and Key Worker/Vulnerable children to return to us from 1st June. As I shared in my letter last week, we will keep this phased return under review and let you know if we are able to extend the opening to children in Year 1 and Year 6.

I would like to thank all staff, families and governors for your continued support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Prestidge
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

