

Frequently asked questions

1. Does my child have to return to school?

From 1st September, school attendance will again become compulsory. We acknowledge there will be a few families who will still be unable to attend a full time table for various reasons, we will work with those families on a case by case basis.

For the vast majority, the expectation is that your child returns. Sanctions will be in place for non-attendance. The local authority is very clear in this and we will be asked to complete frequent attendance returns.

2. How will social distancing be maintained?

It has been acknowledged that social distancing cannot be guaranteed in a primary school especially amongst the younger children. However, we will take all the precautions we can to adhere to the current advice as far as possible:

- Year groups will become the “social bubble”, of 30 children and the staff within them
- There will be no activities that bring multiple year groups together
- When dropping children off and picking them up, we will be operating a one way system around the school - through the KS2 playground, around the outside of the school building and exiting via the KS1 playground
- Two metre markers will be placed around the outside of the building to help you maintain social distance
- Only one parent should drop off/collect to minimise the number of adults on the premises
- Children will enter via their classroom door, with the exception of Year 1, who will come in via the Key Stage 1 door. Children will be dismissed one at a time, via the their classroom door (including Year 1), at their allotted time at end of the day
- Children will be able to use toilet facilities throughout the day, rather than purely at breaks and lunchtimes. There will be a one in one out approach to the use of facilities. Cubicles are assigned per year group.

3. Can my child ride their bike (or scooter) to school?

Yes. The bike store will be open but bikes/scooters will need to be WALKED around the one way system on the playground to be dropped off there (parents can do this for them). If arriving alone, the child will need to walk around the one way system, store their bike/scooter and then re-join the one-way path to access their classroom door.

4. How will learning in the classroom look for my child?

The aim is for classrooms to look and feel as familiar as possible and to return to near normal conditions in each room. The risks are mitigated by stringent handwashing and sanitising, good respiratory and hand hygiene and maintaining the classes as one “bubble”.

5. What about reading books/books bags/homework?

Communal cloakrooms will not be used for most year groups, so where possible they should limit what is brought into school as all belongings will need to be stored in the classroom, therefore it would be better not to have 30 big backpacks in class. Book bags or a drawstring PE bag are preferable.

Children should not bring stationery or pencil cases into school.

Reading books may be borrowed from school but when returned will go into 72 hour quarantine before the next child can borrow it to go home.

6. How will the curriculum look for my child?

St. Paul's Catholic Primary School will adopt a 'recovery curriculum' approach.

During this period, children will be reminded of all of their hard work during the previous year and we will 'reset' the expectations so that children know that we are expecting of them on their return to school i.e. great learning behaviours.

Our September 2020 curriculum which includes a whole school themed topic called "It's a wonderful world" to endorse a cross-curricular approach and an integral of a global theme including where appropriate examples of Multi-cultural /BAME history.

The teaching of all subjects will recommence in the autumn term.

7. How will my child be supported to adapt to the 'new normal'?

There is no doubt that both children and staff will find the 'new normal' challenging. Children will find it difficult to maintain distance from their friends but nonetheless they will be able to physically see each other and talk and interact in a way that they have not been able to for months. Staff will work hard to promote social distancing and support your child's mental well-being above all else. Please be assured, that no matter the member of staff working with your child, they will be familiar with your child and will have communicated with your child's class teacher to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child. It is important that you also communicate with us, if you need to.

8. Will school be open every day and during what hours?

School will be open each day Monday-Friday, with staggered start and finishing times. Breakfast Club will also be operation from 7.45am should you need it (places must be booked in advance)

9. How can the 'school rush' be avoided?

To encourage social distancing we will be operating staggered start and end times to the school day. These groups are organised in alphabetical order and in family groups.

Group 1 (Surnames A-G): 8:40am-3.10pm

Group 2(Surnames H-O) 8.50am-3:20pm

Group 3 (Surnames P-Z) 9:00am – 3:30pm

10. Will you be measuring pupils' temperatures?

Yes, when children arrive in their 'social bubble,' their teacher will take their temperature. They will then clean their hands immediately. The same process will be repeated at intervals throughout the day after lunch time play. If we detect a raised temperature you will be contacted straight away.

11. Can pupils decide to bring a packed lunch or can food only be provided by school?

All children should bring their own snack, no tuck trolley will be available. The kitchen will open to order a hot school meal from the reduced menu. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be entitled to the universal free school meal. Paid for meals are available for Key Stage 2 children to order.

Please also provide your child with a water bottle a day as the water fountains will be out of bounds. Bottles can be re-filled in the classroom.

12. What will break and lunch time look like?

Children will eat their lunch at their desk in their classroom with their 'social bubble.' Lunch times will be staggered. After eating, children will play outside using designated zones on the playground for each 'social bubble.' Breaktimes will also be staggered. Equipment will be assigned to each year group for their use. They will play in their 'social bubble' only. Minor first aid will be provided on the playground to limit the number of adults children are exposed to.

13. What about PE kits and school uniform?

Uniform will be expected.

Following guidelines set out by the government, children will not be changing for PE. They should wear their PE kit on their PE days (your class teacher will let you know which days) and stay in their PE kit all day.

14. How often will children wash their hands?

Children will wash their hands on arrival at school, after using the toilet, after breaks and sporting activities, before eating any food, including snacks, before leaving school and after sneezing/coughing. Children will use the available sink in their classroom and school will

ensure a good supply of soap, paper towels and hand sanitizer. To avoid touching surfaces, all school doors will be wedged open and bins will be changed to lidded, pedal bins.

15. How will parents know that the other children in their child's 'social bubble' are adhering to the social distancing rules out of school?

This is out of our hands. Parents will need to make their own decision and effectively carry out their own risk assessment before deciding whether to send their child in. This is an area that we do not have any control over.

16. Will staff be adhering to the 1m+ social distancing rule and be safe?

Staff breaks and lunches will be staggered in a similar way to the children. Staff will use a walkie talkie system to communicate with the school office so that internal movement can be limited. Staff meetings will continue to take place remotely and online.

17. Will staff be wearing PPE?

Staff will only be required to wear PPE if they are administering first aid or when dealing with a symptomatic child/adult. This would consist of a face mask, gloves and disposable gloves. School staff may choose to wear a face covering themselves. They are encouraged to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of their bubble eg staffroom or photocopier area.

18. What happens if a child/adult becomes symptomatic during the school day?

Anyone who shows symptoms in school will be asked to leave by the nearest external door and to walk around the outside of the building to the designated isolated area (the school lobby).

If the isolated person needs to use the bathroom then a designated bathroom (the disabled toilet in the school lobby) must be used. The bathroom and isolation area are to be cleaned before further use.

Government advice would then need to be followed regarding self-isolation for the family. The symptomatic individual must stay at home for 10 days. A test will be available to them and any member of their household if they too become symptomatic.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

19. Can my child or staff members be tested if they show symptoms?

All staff and children who are attending an education setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and must get tested in this scenario. Where the child or

staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting as soon as they feel well enough to do so and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

20. What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19?

If a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their 'social bubble' group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. If other members of the bubble become symptomatic, they too should have a test. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless your child subsequently develops symptoms. A confirmed outbreak of 2 or more will result in class closure or school closure. We are also subject to local lockdown arrangements if the transmission rate in the area spikes.

21. What happens if my child has a toileting accident?

If it is a wetting accident, then the child will be supervised from a distance and guided through the process of changing their own clothes. If it is a soiling accident, then we will call parents to come and collect their child. The child may return when they are able to do so.

22. My child needs to take medication, can they bring it to school?

Inhalers will be kept in the classroom with your child as normal. Any other prescribed medication will be kept in the school office and access arranged for it as necessary. However, medication that is needed only 3 times a day can be taken at home.

23. Can parents go to the office to speak to staff through the hatch?

In order to minimise contact between adults and passing each other in a small space, this is not permitted. Please consider phoning/emailing in order to limit social contact at this time. No cash payments will be taken and the school gateway should be used.

Similarly class teachers will not be immediately available to speak to you at length. They can phone you or arrange a video call.