



'A happy and holy place of learning
and the centre of a thriving community'

St Benet's Catholic Primary School
St Benet's Way
Ouston
Chester-le-Street
Durham
DH2 1QX

Website: www.st-benets.durham.sch.uk

Email: stbenets@durhamlearning.net

Telephone: 0191 4105857

Head teacher: Mrs C Young
Acting Deputy Head Teacher: Mr J Quinn
School Business Manager: Mrs D Finley

Wednesday 14th July 2021

Plans for Returning to School in September

Dear Parents and Carers,

In order to prepare parents and children for the return to school in September, we have put together some plans for the children's return on Tuesday 7th September. These plans are provisional and are based on the current guidance from the Department for Education. They are subject to change should the government make any additional changes during the summer holidays. However, I think we will all be thankful that the plans resemble school life in the Pre-Covid days!

No More Bubbles!

From September, it is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in their class bubbles. This means that the normal school playtimes will resume at 10:30am and 2.00pm and all children shall be able to mix together on the playground and the yard. Once again, we shall be able to hold assemblies and liturgical prayers together as a school community in the hall. Children will not need to avoid mixing with other bubbles at lunchtime or during any extracurricular group sessions.

Morning Drop Offs

From September, there will no longer be staggered start and finish times for each year group. On a morning, **the children are to be dropped off at the school gates anytime between 8:35am and 8:55am. All children must be in school for 8:55am.** The morning drop offs will be similar to this school year as the general feedback has been that this system works very well. Parents will drop their children off at the gates where staff are waiting to allow them onto the school site. Nursery to Year 2 children are to be dropped off at the Infant Gates and Years 3 to 6 shall be dropped off at the junior/main entrance gates. Children will go straight into their classroom.

Afternoon Pick Ups (Reception to Year 6)

All children shall be picked up on an afternoon at 3:30pm from the school playground. If parents are collecting the children, they must walk onto the playground to collect the children. The gates shall be open from 3:15pm. All year groups (including Reception) are to be picked up here.





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Afternoon Pick Ups (Nursery)

If any Nursery children are being picked up at the end of the school day, they are to be picked up from outside the Nursery building at 3:25pm. If you have any older siblings to collect, this gives you ample time to collect the Nursery children first before walking to the school playground to collect the older children.

For those Nursery children leaving school at midday and being dropped off for their afternoon session at 12:30pm, the Nursery staff shall bring these children to the Infant Pedestrian gate to handover to parents. They shall also collect those children coming to Nursery at 12:30pm from here.

After-School Clubs

After-school clubs shall resume in September, starting from Monday 20th September. Further information about all clubs shall be circulated to parents during the first week back. If parents are collecting children after an after-school club, please wait outside the school gates and staff shall bring the children out to you.

PE Kits and School Uniform

Children shall come to school wearing their full school uniform every day. This includes ties, school or navy sweatshirt/cardigan and black shoes (not black trainers). When your child has PE, they must bring their PE Kit to school with them and they shall get changed in school. Children are no longer to come to school wearing their PE Kit from September. We recommend that children bring their PE kit into school on a Monday to put on their cloakroom peg, then it goes home on a Friday to be washed, then brought back to school on a Monday. This way, your child will not forget their PE Kit! PE Kits consist of a white St Benet's Logo T-shirt or plain white t-shirt (logos on t-shirts unless our school logo, are not acceptable), black/navy shorts or trousers in the winter time and their red PE hoody. During the first half of the Autumn term, the children will have PE outside so please make sure that they have a pair of trainers in their PE bag.

Cloakroom

The children shall once again be able to use the cloakrooms outside of their classroom to keep their school bags, PE kits and coats.

Hand Hygiene

Frequent and regular hand cleaning is now regular practice in school, therefore this shall continue into the new academic year. Children shall have their hands sanitised by staff members upon entering the school gates and at regular times during the day. Thank you to those parents who have supplied hand sanitising gel to us this year- we are very appreciative of this ☺





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Managing Covid-19 in Schools

As Covid-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children's education. The school will keep an up to date risk assessment and an outbreak management plan shall also be devised in the event of an outbreak of positive cases within the school community.

- **Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation**

The government has said that from 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace or identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. Instead, children shall be contacted to say they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

- **Positive Cases of Covid-19 or Where a Child Develops Symptoms**

Children and staff must stay at home if they have any Covid-19 symptoms or if they have had a positive test result. If any child develops Covid-19 symptoms (however mild), we will call parents to come and collect them and the child should follow the public health advice. If a child develops symptoms in school, they shall be asked to sit in the staffroom which has been our isolation area this academic year.

- **Asymptomatic Testing with Lateral Flow Tests**

The government are stressing that testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission within schools. It is likely that the government will continue to promote the twice weekly testing with lateral flow tests from September and kits can be collected from your local pharmacy or ordered online. If any child tests positive on a lateral flow device, they must book a PCR test immediately.

- **Cleaning and Well-Ventilated Spaces**

As part of our risk assessment, regular cleaning of areas and of equipment shall continue next year to ensure that our school are doing all that we can to prevent a spread of the virus in our community. Teaching environments will be well ventilated.

- **Visitors to the School Site**

As the Autumn term progresses, we will welcome parents back onto the school site for any events that we hold in school such as Masses, liturgies and performances. If parents need to contact the school regarding an issue or to speak to a member of staff, we would still encourage you to telephone the school first. If you have to pick your child up from school during the school day, please come to the main entrance where a staff member shall bring your child to the door.





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2020/21 has been an unusual year and we have all responded to the procedures very well. I am very proud and grateful for the continuous support that our families have shown towards our school community during this year and I trust that this support and appreciation will continue as we transition into the new school year.

Should any of the above procedures change over the summer, I will contact all families before the end of the summer break.

Yours sincerely,

C.Young

Catherine Young
Head teacher

