



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities



St Catherine's C of E School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Louise Hussey Head of School: Ms Pippa Warner

Telephone: 01566 772198 Email: stcatherines@andaras.org Website: www.stcatherinescofe.co.uk

24th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are really pleased that we are able to fully re-open from Monday 8th March.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the last half term and for all your hard work with your children. Thank you also to all the staff for their hard work and dedication during this time. Finally, well done to all the children who have worked so hard and shown great resilience and determination during these difficult times. We are proud of you all.

We are really looking forward to having all the children back, however, as you will understand, there will still need to be many protective measures in place to keep everybody as safe as possible. In line with the latest government guidance, we will update our risk assessment prior to the children returning. The latest version will be uploaded to the school website.

In order to prepare the school site for re-opening, the school will be closed completely next Friday 5th March (Except for Nursery) This means that the Key Worker Provision will close on Thursday 4th March. The children will be set 'No Screen Day' challenges for their remote learning that day.

- Protective measures will include the following:
- Staff will continue to test twice a week using lateral flow tests
- Regular hand washing throughout the day
- All adults MUST wear a face covering on the school grounds at all times unless they are exempt.
- Any child who has a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste and/or smell must not attend school and a test must be carried out. If positive, the school must be contacted immediately.
- All children will continue to be taught in class bubbles. Please help us not to mix the bubbles by ensuring that children from different bubbles continue to socially distance at drop off and collection times and outside of school times.
- Please ensure that you socially distance from each other at collection and drop off times.
- Please drop off and collect children at the appropriate times and use the designated entrances for your child's class. (Reminders of times and entrances are below)

- Please ensure that your child wears lots of layers into school as the windows will be open for extra ventilation. Children will also be doing lots of learning outdoors.

If you need to contact a member of staff please phone the school office. Do not come into school.

If at any time the school has to close due to the virus, the teaching staff will provide home learning virtually by Microsoft TEAMS and Dojo.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

The detail:

- **Staggered start and finish times** will be used as per the government guidance, to reduce congestion and therefore the mixing of too many adults at these times.

We ask that you stick to these times and support this through remaining outside of the school gates until your child's allotted times.

As previously we ask that where possible older children enter alone to go to their class door.

Only one adult per family and younger siblings must not roam freely in the school grounds.

Please do not congregate at the school gates.

The lay-by remains NO Parking and a drop off zone only. The Police station has continued to allow us to use their overflow carpark during drop off and pick-up times to ease parking – please DO NOT use their main car park under any circumstances as it is not safe to park in there. The government is strongly encouraging families to walk to school where possible or park and walk when not.

Infants should enter and line up to the left as you enter the school, juniors should enter to the right and up around the rear of the school. Please follow signage and one-way systems. Older children will be expected to line up on social distanced spaces outside of their classrooms. Again, we are sorry, but parents cannot be admitted to the building and will need to drop promptly to maintain social distancing for the next in line to drop or collect.

Times:

Nursery: 9.00-3.00

Reception: 8.45 – 3.05

Year 1: 8.50 – 3.10

Year 2: 8.55-3.15

Year 3: 8.45-3.05

Year 4: 8.50-3.10

Year 5: 8.55-3.15

Year 6: 8.45-3.05

- **Communication with the teacher** will be harder as we are used to those drop off/pick up conversations with teachers. However, with the need for prompt dropping and collecting to observe the 10-minute slots and maintain social distancing, this will not be feasible. If you need to talk to a teacher, please use Dojo to arrange a phone conversation to discuss any issues. Parents will not be able to congregate on the school grounds or outside the school gates. Parents will continue to access the school office by appointment only.
- **Breakfast Club** will be open again as previously. This must still be pre-booked and paid for via School Money and will run from 8am. After 8.30 there will be no entry to breakfast club. Breakfast can only be served between 8 and 8.15. Parents will need to ring the external door and wait with their child until they are collected from the door by a staff member. The staff member will sign the child in.
- **Lunches** will also be run on a staggered timetable to reduce the contact between bubbles in the school hall. Chartwells, our catering company, will be resuming a hot food service. This will be free to all pupils up until

the end of Year 2 and £2.30 a meal for all other year groups unless your child is entitled to Free School Meals. Dinners will need to be ordered and paid for on our School Money system for the week, by 12 noon on Sundays. New menus will be issued separately. For those children choosing to bring a packed lunch, these will need to be brought in a clearly named plastic lunchbox. (No canvas type bags please). All pupils will need a named water bottle.

- **Breaktimes** – children will play in zoned areas, at staggered times, within their class bubbles.
- **Uniform** – children will be expected to wear uniform. Current government guidance says this does not need to be changed more frequently than normal or washed in any special way. To ease transitions and enable us to use the school field for more space for bubbles, we'd prefer all children to come in trainers and not formal school shoes. We are happy for children to continue to wear black or grey joggers if preferred. This we also feel may reduce financial burdens on families who are still furloughed or not working. The children will need a raincoat in every day as we will be outside every day.
- **Equipment** – the children will be allowed a school bag but it is advisable to purchase one that is easy to wash frequently. The children will only need to bring their lunch and reading book so a small bag is preferable or just a book bag. They must not bring in equipment, toys or pencil cases from home. When returning reading books, the class staff will show children where to place the books and issue new ones.
- **PE kit** – children will need a pair of jogging trousers and sweatshirt in grey or black. They will generally have their PE on one afternoon a week so that there will be no mixing of bubbles in the outside or hall spaces and the coaches we employ will only work with them that afternoon. **To make things simpler, we ask that the children come to school in their kits for their PE day.** Class teachers will post on your child's class story your confirmed PE days for the rest of this term.
- **Curriculum Information** - The school staff will be able to move freely between bubbles. Intervention groups and after school clubs should be able to run again. However, staff will maintain social distancing and avoid contact wherever possible. Pupils will be going up to the next year group as usual. The school curriculum, although focusing on core subjects and catch up where required, will still be broad and balanced giving children experiences in all foundation subjects.
- **Classroom Set-up** - There will be some changes to the layout of classrooms and children will not be working in grouped tables facing inwards. They will instead be working in forward facing rows. Equipment will be limited, especially soft furnishings and will be washed frequently. The classrooms will be cleaned throughout the day with our cleaners attending at lunchtime to clean communal areas such as toilets.
- **After School Clubs** will be resuming as soon as we can get them booked in -a separate letter detailing these will be sent out in due course.

A reminder, that from 8th March, the government and the Department for Education have stated that attendance in school is again compulsory. We will resume our normal procedures for recording absence. Please note, due to the extended absence of all children, term-time holidays cannot be authorised.

At the forefront of our approach to the return will be children's well-being, identifying and addressing gaps in learning and resuming school life as quickly as possible.

The COVID-19 risk assessment will be updated and will be available on the website by the end of this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Louise Hussey
Executive Headteacher

Pippa Warner
Head of School