



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, last Monday the DfE published its guidance in relation to the gradual opening of schools for pupils in EYFS, Year One and Year Six pupils. We are also expected to continue to provide on-site provision for Key worker priority groups.

An Daras Trust is committed to re-opening its schools in accordance with DfE guidance where it is appropriate and safe to do so. However, in order to do this, we will need to implement protective measures and complete rigorous risk assessments. We have been working on these risk assessments since the announcement and taking advice from the County Health and Safety team.

We will be following DfE guidance regarding implementing protective measures. Protective measures will include:

- avoiding contact with symptomatic people
- frequent hand washing
- regular cleaning of premises
- minimising contact and mixing where possible and by reducing class sizes
- Staggered start and finish times and lunchtimes.
- Children will only be in on certain days with no more than 15 children in any one room at a time.
- We will ask children to bring in a packed lunch.
- We will keep the same staff with the same children.

However, the guidance states that the following groups of students and staff will need to continue to work from home.

1. Students and staff who are classed clinically vulnerable. The conditions that put you in this group are listed in section 8 in this guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing#clinically-vulnerable-people>

2. Students and staff who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable or live with people who are classed at clinically extremely vulnerable. These people are defined in this guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

How this will look at St Catherine's:

It is crucial that children are prepared for how different school will be from previously. In order to meet the DfE guidelines to ensure children, families and staff safety, our wider re-opening will be trialled in the following way:

Home Learning

On Mondays school will be closed to all **except pre-booked Key Worker children**. This time will be used by staff to set home school learning for the week. As the majority of staff will be on duty in school, home learning will now be set in the form of a grid of learning to completed at home throughout the week for all year groups. Teachers or TAs will support through the week on days they are not in school through portfolio checking, etc. This will support those children who are unable to return to school yet or cannot return due to vulnerability.

Learning in School

Learning in school will be based on the same learning that has been sent home. Most learning will take place outside.

Timetable

It is important that we follow guidelines in staggering times and avoiding the mixing of groups of children and adults (in the 'bubble' format prescribed by the Department for Education) therefore children will be grouped – a class will be split into an A group and a B group each with a maximum of 15 pupils in. This group will then be split and spread across 2 classrooms. These groups will form the 'bubbles' and pupils and the allocated adult will remain together avoiding mixing with other groups or other rooms. At present with numbers so low we may only need an 'A group'. Arrangements will be reviewed on a weekly basis. **Due to the requirement to reduce class sizes and socially distance, we will only be able to offer a partial timetable for the eligible year groups initially.**

Key worker children

Key worker children will be kept in the group ('bubble') they are currently in. They will continue to be based in school but now based in Year 3 with a rotated teacher daily.

Times: 8.45am-3.15pm Entrance Year 3 Classroom Door

Nursery

We are still working out the feasibility of which nursery children we can accommodate safely, meeting legal requirements for staff ratios but it is likely that those children due to transition into reception in September will be prioritised to support them in this preparation. Once confirmed the group will be Nursery for two days a week with a teacher and a nursery assistant. **We will confirm as soon as possible whether we plan to offer any reopening of nursery.** *Times: 9.30-2.30 Entrance Nursery Class Door*

Reception

Reception children are likely to be split into a group A and a Group B dependent on numbers.

Each group will be allocated 2 staff members and be split across 2 classrooms and either attend Tues/Wed or Thurs/Fri

Times: 9.30-2.30 Entrance Reception Class – First Door

Year 1

Year 1 children are likely to be split into a group A and a Group B dependent on numbers.

Each group will be allocated 2 staff members and be split across 2 classrooms and either attend Tues/Wed or Thurs/Fri

Times: 9.15-2.45 Entrance Year 1 Corridor entrance

Year 6

Year 6 children are likely to be split into a group A and a Group B dependent on numbers.

Each group will be allocated 2 staff members and be split across 2 classrooms and either attend Tues/Wed or Thurs/Fri

Times: 9.00-3pm Entrance – Year 5 Class Door

Groups

The DFE are strongly advising schools to take a 'bubble' approach to group pupils and stringently avoid them mixing to keep infection spread risk at a lower level. Groups will be organised alphabetically.

Hygiene

As we know, in school bugs and illness spread rapidly. To help reduce risk, children will be requested to wash hands upon arrival at school. They will be sent to wash hands throughout the day at very regular intervals. Each group will have an allocated toilet to avoid groups mixing.

Clothing

Children do not need to wear uniform. We will be learning outside for as much as possible of each day. We suggest suitable clothing and footwear for this. They will need trainers, a waterproof coat, hat and suncream. Everything should come to school in a large, named plastic bag.

Lunches

All children must bring their packed lunch in a disposable bag and bring their own snack and drinks bottles.

Equipment

To avoid mixing resources, we will provide your child with a pencil, pen, rubber, ruler in school – please do not send pencil cases.

Social Distancing Measures

The reality is that we **CANNOT** guarantee social distancing in school but to try to minimise risk, we will implement the following:

- Groups will be a maximum of 15 split across 2 classrooms
- Groups will not mix with other groups in the school or share resources or rooms
- Staff assigned to a group will not mix with other groups
- Room furniture will be removed to allow distance between tables
- As advised, soft furnishing and toys, toys that are difficult to clean and shared resources such as sand trays will be removed from EYFS and KS1 classes
- The playground will be marked to encourage social distance
- Staggered playtimes and lunchtimes will stop groups mixing in school
- Key worker groups will be kept separate from other groups
- Parents and carers will not be able to enter the building
- Pupils will enter and leave the building by separate entrances
- Parents will be reminded through signage and markers to socially distance when dropping and collecting children. Start and finish times will be staggered to reduce numbers and only one parent allowed to bring and collect at a time.

Pupils displaying symptoms

As previously, if your child or a member of your household is displaying symptoms, you should not bring your child to school. Your household should then isolate for a minimum of 7 days but longer if anyone is still displaying symptoms. **The government have updated symptoms: a new, continuous cough; high temperature; or a loss of, or change, in their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia). Anyone now displaying symptoms can arrange for testing.**

For any pupil who begins to display symptoms at school, we will follow the DFE instructions to isolate them immediately. They will remain in isolation supervised by a member of staff provided with PPE and at a distance of 2 meters. Please ensure, if your child is in school, your emergency contact details are up-to-date.

If your child needs Calpol at home, we ask that you do not send your child to school.

Risk Assessments

All DFE and County recommended risk assessments have been completed and have informed decisions around the set up of the wider re-opening in our school. However, please do note, that no matter how carefully we implement these, the government have clearly said that whilst the *risk is low, there is still a risk*. We are planning to open to a larger group at the government's direction. The decision to send your child is, in the end, yours and the government will not penalise anyone choosing not to yet at this very early stage.

Attendance

In order to manage groups effectively, **you will now need to confirm if you intend to send your child into school** so that we can allocate staff, rooms and groups. This must be done by Friday at the latest. Should your decision change and you no longer wish to send your child to school, or your child can't come in on an allotted day, you will need to notify the school in the usual ways of absence.

If you have chosen not to send your child currently and at a later date choose to take up a place, we will need a minimum of a week's notice as rotas and groups will be set on a Friday each week.

Please talk to your child, if they are returning, so they understand the changes that have been put in place, understand they may not be with their teacher or in their usual classroom and will be grouped with a 'bubble' of classmates.

Once the building has been organised we will take photographs of the new layout, stripped down rooms and new entrance arrangements to support in preparing your child.

Many thanks for all your continued support through the last 8 weeks and through this tricky transition to returning to opening.

If you wish to discuss this further please don't hesitate to contact me.

Louise Hussey

Executive Headteacher