

Great Crosby Catholic Primary School



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PAS/lcm

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for information regarding September.

As you are aware, we have been putting plans in place over the past few weeks for a full re-opening of our school.

In this letter, I will be outlining the main changes to our normal routines which we have identified as part of our risk assessment. Some of these are currently in place for the children who have been attending school, others are based on the new guidance from the Department for Education issued on 2nd July.

We ask **all** families to complete and return the slip on the separate letter by email to parentresponse.gcp@schools.sefton.gov.uk If you do not have the facility to do this, you can send an email direct to the same email address. **The deadline to respond is 12 noon on Friday 21st August. It is really important that everyone responds by this time so that we can continue planning throughout the summer.** The government have confirmed that school attendance from September is compulsory and we hope that the measures we have put in place will reassure you. While we cannot eliminate the risk completely, we have done our best to ensure it is minimised and the health and wellbeing of our children and staff is of great importance to us.

Alteration to normal routine	What this means in practice
Staggered start and finish times	Children will filter into school from 8.30am until 8.55am and be allocated a finish time for their year group. Reception: 2.50 pm Years 1 & 2: 3.00pm Years 3 – 6: 3.05pm It is very important that they stick to this time and that a 2m distance is kept between adults and children around the school gate. If a child needs to be accompanied, only one parent/carer should attend. Parents cannot gather at entrance gates or doors , or enter the playground or school site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely). We would encourage children to be brought to school by family members in order to maintain home bubble arrangements
Uniform and PE	From September until Christmas in the first instance we are relaxing uniform policy to enable easier cleaning for parents. Children will not be required to wear ties. You can either choose the white shirt, leaving top button open or the yellow polo shirts we usually wear during the summer months. We are happy for you to purchase the polo shirts without the logo which are available from leading supermarket chains. We would ask that shoes have Velcro fastening for all children who are unable to tie their own shoelaces. PE kit will be worn on the day your class has allocated PE time. We will not be storing PE kit or changing for PE in school.

Cleaning rotas	Our cleaning team has been increased and we have them on site throughout the day. Teaching staff will also have access to appropriate cleaning materials in the classroom. High touch points such as light switches will be cleaned more frequently than usual and doors will be wedged open where possible to limit the amount of 'high touch' surfaces. Classrooms will be cleaned and then fogged with an ultra-low volume fogger.
Bubbles	Each teaching 'bubble' will remain in the same classroom with their class teacher/teachers as far as possible but be part of a year group bubble. Some support staff will move between classes within a year group to give necessary support. This measure is necessary to limit any cross-contamination.
Teaching staff	Each teaching group will have one teacher and teaching assistants may also be allocated, depending on the needs of the children in that group. These adults will remain with this group as far as possible. Staff are able to teach across different bubbles and will need to maintain social distancing as far as they can.
Social distancing of Teaching Assistants	Teaching assistants will be allocated to each year group according to need but will still need to social distance. This will mean that children will get the support they need but may need to be encouraged to work with more independence.
Use of stationery	School will provide children with pens, pencils etc. as usual but they will not be able to share this equipment. Shared resources such as PE equipment and toys are allowed within each bubble but will be cleaned before and after use.
Temperature Checks	Children will not routinely have their temperature checked in school, however if we are concerned that a child is unwell, we will carry out a check with a 'non-contact' thermometer.
Assemblies, Rejoice	Sadly, whole school assemblies are not allowed currently. However, each class will be participating in a daily act of collective worship within their bubble. We will be encouraging the children to lead these regularly as this is great for their own spiritual development. Unfortunately, we are not currently able to invite parents into school to attend Rejoice celebrations or any performances.
Marking books	Marking of books will be limited to avoid any virus transmission to staff. Children will be able to self-mark where possible (for example in maths, and verbal feedback will still be provided).
Curriculum	From September the curriculum will be adjusted to meet the needs of the children. We will therefore have to prioritise the aspects which we feel are most important, particularly within the core subjects of RE, English, maths and science.
Break time	Children will still need to abide by social distancing measures at break times. These times will be staggered according to year group bubbles.
Lunchtime	A packed lunch will either be provided by school or by parents if you so wish. Lunches will be delivered to classrooms and eaten at desks rather than in the hall. Reception and Key Stage One will all be entitled to a free school packed lunch. Key Stage Two will have to pay, unless they are entitled to a free school meal. There will be time for some form of play and these times will be staggered according to teaching groups and will need to comply with social distancing. Welfare staff will supervise the same teaching bubble each day. We already had plans in place to move to packed lunches for the first half of the Autumn term as the kitchen will not be completed until end of September.
Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club will begin again in September. Children will be organised into year groups and a member of staff from that year group, wherever possible, will supervise the children.

Pupil handwashing times	Regular supervised handwashing rotas will be in place for teaching groups. The children will wash their hands when coming into school, before eating, after using the bathroom, before leaving school and regularly during the school day.
Online learning continuation	If a bubble needs to isolate or if there is a local lockdown, we will continue to provide work online. A full time-table of work will be provided. Teachers will provide feedback to the class and will aim to make weekly contact with their class.
Parent communication	We will continue to communicate via Groupcall for general matters and via the school email address admin.greatcrosby@schools.sefton.gov.uk if parents have individual enquiries. We ask that everyone communicates via email whenever possible rather than sending physical letters into school. Electronic communication is safest by far. Parents' meetings (such as 'Meet the Teacher') and parent consultations to discuss children's progress will be conducted electronically.
Office traffic	Our school foyer whilst much bigger is not designed for social distancing and we ask that parents email where possible or telephone when email is not an option. We will be limiting visitors to school to an absolute minimum and ask that parents only come to the foyer if it is absolutely necessary. Only one person at a time will be allowed in the foyer. If you are waiting, it is safer to wait outside and at a distance of 2m from others. Unless it is an emergency, parents will only be allowed onsite by prior appointment.
Borrowing reading books	We will try, where possible, to allow children to borrow a reading book but these will have to be changed less frequently.
Test and Trace	If staff or children display symptoms of COVID-19, they must remain at home and a test booked. While the results of testing are awaited, the bubble can remain in school. If the result is negative, the child or staff member can return to school straight away. If the test is positive, the bubble will need to remain at home for 14 days. Work will be provided via the website. We ask all parents to complete and return the attached form agreeing to book a test and to inform school of the result immediately.
Extra-Curricular Clubs	We are aiming to re-start a limited offer of after school clubs after the Autumn term. These will initially take place within the children's bubble. We will keep you informed when any clubs are able to begin.
Other curriculum changes	No contact sports can take place currently in PE. In music, singing is not recommended and we are seeking an alternative to music tuition for our Year 4/5 music lessons. Guitar lessons will be socially distanced but can continue. The IT suite will be cleaned between bubbles. We will be limiting the use of iPads and laptops.
End of Year Assessment	Year 6 SATs will take place in May 2021 as usual. Year 1 will complete their phonics screening check in June 2021. Year 2 SATs will inform end of year teacher assessments and the possibility of a Year 2 phonics check is currently being discussed. Year 4 will complete a multiplication tables check in June 2021. The government currently believe that it is important that these assessments continue so that they gain an understanding of the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on this cohort of pupils nationally.
Full cleaning of classrooms and resources	Our cleaning staff will complete a thorough clean each day and classrooms will not be in use over the weekend.

As you can see, there are many aspects that we have had to consider when thinking about re-opening in September. There will no doubt have to be modifications to these plans as we see how they work in practice.

Please bear with us and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We thank you once again for your patience, support and understanding during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. P.A. Speed
Headteacher