**Return to School Guidance for Parents**

As you are all aware the government has asked schools to prepare for opening for all children in September. There will also, apparently, be an announcement on August 11th to confirm the government’s decision.

Provisionally, St James’ Catholic Primary School will be open to all children on **Thursday 3rd September**

Risk Assessments have been completed and, as a result, the school day will look very different for our children. Risk Assessment can only minimise risk, it can not totally eliminate it and the following measures will be put into place for the safety of your children and my staff…

* The children’s class will become their “social bubble” and will have the same children and the same members of staff with them each day
* Peripatetic teachers e.g. for music and PE will be able to work with different bubbles as long as they maintain social distancing.
* Each bubble will be allocated their classroom and a zone of the playground for lunch and playtime and they will not be permitted to mix or even cross paths with another bubble, even if they are related or best friends etc…
* There will be as much outdoor education as we can managed, weather permitting
* If any child tests positive for covid19 then their whole “bubble” will have to isolate for 14 days

Start of the School Day

* Care Club will be a Breakfast Club and will only be for children of parents who work and the start time for all will be 8.15am
* Each Bubble will have its own start and finish time so the school day will be slightly different as we will not be having traditional playtimes or lunchtimes
* It is really important that you come to the school gate at your allocated time. Late comers will not be admitted as they will run the risk of contacting the next bubble of children.
* The children need to wear clean clothes every day, uniform wherever possible or school colours if there is an odd day when they are awaiting something drying. There is no need to wear facemasks in school but if it is going to be a hot day and your chid requires suncream then please could you apply an all day brand before school
* When it is your allocated start time, we will ask that you approach school down Cheriton Close and leave school via the walkway to church.
* The pavement outside school is marked with yellow shells (EYFS & KS1) and blue shells (KS2) 2m apart (like the supermarkets). Each child can stand on one shell and can only have one adult with them. Younger children will queue down Cheriton Close and the older children down the walkway to church. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will enter by the normal pedestrian gate and years 3 ,4, 5and 6 will enter through the Ark gate.
* Children will be met at the gate by members of staff. A member of staff will allow one child at a time through the gates and they will have to walk from the school gate to their allocated classroom. We will utilise different doors of entry wherever possible.
* No adults will be allowed in the school grounds, if you need to get a message to us, it will have to be by phone 0161 368 3455 or via the care@st-james-hyde.tameside.sch.uk email address. The only exception to this will be the parents of the children who are new to our school in Nursery and Reception in their initial weeks.
* Adults should leave once the child has gone through the gate and walk along the car park side of Cheriton Close. There is to be no loitering or chatting in groups outside school
* The children will not be permitted to bring anything into school, no book bags, no lunch boxes, no PE kit, no things to show and tell, no bikes or scooters.

In Class

* The classrooms will look very different, all soft furniture, all soft play, any fabric areas and any unnecessary equipment has been removed, disinfected and put in storage
* The children will be given an allocated space to work which will be 1m away from the next child’s work space where ever possible (this will look different in each classroom dependent on the age of the child and the space available). Children will be facing the same way wherever possible.
* Each child will be provided with a tray with their own equipment for each day and this will be wiped down at the end of the day
* Staff will maintain the recommended social distance at all time so will not be able to do any of our normal face to face contact
* Team games and contact sports will not be allowed
* The Hall, the ICT suite and the Ark will not be in use so there will be very little movement around the school, simply from their classroom base to their outdoor zone. This has been carefully mapped to avoid meeting another bubble of children
* There will be no assemblies, no singing, no church services as all these are designated large gatherings or have been shown to spread the virus through the air
* Each bubble will have an allocated toilet block and no more than one child will be able to visit the toilet at any given time

Lunchtime

* Each bubble will have it’s own lunchtime, food will be eaten in their classroom and then they will get 30mins outside with their allocated dinnerlady
* Children on school dinners will be given a school packed lunch, sandwiches some days but also pizza, sasuage roll and pizza wrap, pasta pots etc on others. Children bringing a packed lunch from home must bring it in a carrier bag, not a lunch box, with everything inside in disposable wrappers/containers
* Please make sure that your child can independently open everything in their lunch, crisp packets, banana skins etc as staff will not be permitted to touch their foods

End of the School Day

* At your allocated finish time, please queue at 2m intervals down Cheriton Close and the children will be returned to you there by a member of staff
* Exit via the little car park side of Cheriton Close
* Once home please ensure that your child’s uniform is washed each night and your child has a bath or shower as soon as you are home to avoid them carrying the virus into your home

First Aid

* We have organised school so there is a First Aider in each bubble and, as each classroom already has its own first aid kit, first aid will be administered where the incident happens
* If the incident is minor and the child is old enough, they will be encouraged to sort themselves out.
* If this is not possible, First Aiders will have to use full PPE, please prepare your child for this eventuality.
* If the incident is major, we will, as usual, contact you straight away.
* Likewise if there are any toileting accidents then we will encourage the child to sort themselves out. If this is not possible staff will have to wear full PPE and we may need to contact you for your assistance.

Cleaning

* We are putting in measures to ensure that the school is cleaned regularly throughout the day but again this will only minimise risk not totally eliminate it
* Please impress upon your child the importance of regular hand washing
* Children may not be able to use some of the outdoor equipment e g the climbing frame as we don’t have the ability to clean it every day

Appendix to the Positive Behaviour Policy during the Coronavirus Pandemic

The normal high standards of behaviour will be expected by any child returning to school as part of the gradual reopening of schools.

Children will be expected to follow the guidelines issued to parents to keep themselves and others safe.

If a child cannot maintain social distancing, comply with handwashing guidance or remain in their “bubble” we will immediately inform parents to come and collect the child. Each case will be judged on the severity of the incident and the age of the child before a decision is made about whether the child can return to school or not.

If the incident requires the rest of the class to be removed from their safe place or the child to be physically removed from their own safe place then it will be an immediate phone call home and the child will not be returning to school until social distancing measures change.

As you all know, writing a letter like this goes totally goes against the grain with me, I much prefer the chatty, newsy style of our newsletters. Our lovely little friendly community school feels differently, it certainly looks very different but the most important thing is that we have followed advice and done our best to keep each other safe. And it has worked with the smaller bubbles of children who have been in in July. We can do this!

Thank you for your continuing support and cooperation in this matter.