



HOLY SOULS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"a place where we pray together and everyone is important"

Mallard Close, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 6BN

Tel: 0121 272 1776
Email: enquiry@holysoul.bham.sch.uk
Website: www.holysoul.bham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Girling



A St. Teresa of Calcutta
Multi Academy Company
School

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to you all. We hope you are all safe and well and on behalf of myself, staff, Governors, and Board of Directors for the St Teresa of Calcutta Mac we thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We know, be it at school or at home, the children have been everyone's priority and we look forward to welcoming them all back.

We are delighted that all pupils will be returning to school on Monday 8th March.

Attendance

It is essential that all pupils return to school. Whilst we may be feeling anxious we have all the necessary measures in place and these worked exceptionally well in the autumn term.

Please be aware that Government Guidelines states

From 8 March, school attendance is mandatory for all pupils. All children and young people should attend their special school, special post-16 provider or alternative provision setting, unless they receive a positive test result or have to self-isolate.

This and further information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

LATERAL FLOW TESTING

Staff will continue to take tests twice a week. Please be aware that guidelines state that we close a bubble to close contacts if we have a positive result. Likewise any pupil who tests





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positive may also result in a bubble closing. Whilst we hope this does not happen please be aware that it may happen and at short notice. **Please do have a Plan B in place for care of your child if classes have to close at short notice!**

Remote Learning will be in place should a bubble close. A closure will be shared by text and email. We thank you for respecting the privacy of individuals should this happen.

ARRANGEMENTS FROM MARCH 8TH WHOLE SCHOOL REOPENING

To reopen safely please read carefully the information below.

If your personal circumstances have changed in relation to shielding (adult or child) please contact the school office as soon as possible.

We have completed the most recent Local Authority Risk Assessment and this has been agreed and accepted by our Local Governing Body and presented to the St Teresa of Calcutta MAB Board.

At all times we are working in line with Government guidelines, Local Authority Risk Assessments, local Governing Body and the MAC Board. By doing this it means that your child's safety and well-being remain our priority when in school.

Our return during the Autumn term was highly successful. All of the community have worked together and I have no reservations that this will continue to be the case. We have reflected on our previous reopening arrangements and the success of the autumn term and in discussion with the staff and Governing Body and in line with Government Guidelines believe the following approach suits the needs of our children and our school community.





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VISITORS ON SITE

In line with Government Guidelines and in the interest of health and safety visitors to school must have an appointment. Therefore we thank you for contacting the office should you have any queries by email at enquiry@holysoul.bham.sch.uk or phone call on 0121 272 1776.

INFORMATION SHARING

We will not be able to meet with parents or pass on messages from any of the gate entrances. Any information you may wish to share will need to be telephoned through or emailed to the office.

Due to restrictions **we will not be using** Reading Diaries where previously we have been able to share information.

Reading Books

Reading books will be sent home every Monday. Please return them on Thursday to allow 72 hours decontamination time. No reading diaries please.

YEAR GROUP EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Staff will be in class teaching and no longer be able to check Year Group Email Accounts until after 3:15pm and only until 4:30pm daily.

CLASS DOJO

We are going to be using this app permanently in school and linking it to our rewards system. It will continue to be used for our videos from Father Jonathan and Father Alex. Whilst information will not be as regular as has been needed in lockdown it will remain an excellent interactive device for us to use. As with email, messages on Class Dojo will not be checked until after 3:15pm until 4:30pm daily.





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UNIFORM

Please see our website for uniform expectations and the recent email regarding ordering uniform. Please label all uniform clearly with your child's name.

Please note pupils may not dye their hair, only one set of studs for those who wear earrings, no rings, painted nails.

Trainers may only be worn for PE lessons or recreation play.

PE Kits

Your child will be told which day they will be having PE. We have decided that children may wear their PE Kit – blue shorts, plain white T Shirt, school jumper (no hoodies, logo sweaters) and trainers/ pumps for the day.

Teachers will send a reminder of your PE day this week.

LUNCHES

A lunch register will be taken on the first morning back to school, to determine if your child is having a packed lunch from home or a school lunch. If your child is bringing a lunch box this must be clearly labelled with your child's name and will be taken home daily for washing.

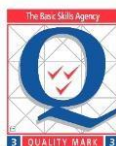
If you wish to make any changes to your child's lunch arrangements, you must email the school office at enquiry@holysoul.bham.sch.uk giving at least one week's notice. If you pay for your child's lunch please ensure this is done so via ParentMail. We ask parents to check their balances and clear any outstanding payments. If you have any queries regarding your account please contact Miss Reynolds via email or telephone.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Please note that we are unable to provide Breakfast Club provision.

MASKS

In line with Government recommendations the advice is that masks are not required in Primary Schools. Pupils do not need to wear a mask and we will update you should the advice change.





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Masks must be worn by all adults (unless exempt) when entering the premises. This is in line with guidelines and for everyone's safety.

BELONGINGS – COATS AND BAGS

We request that pupils limit what they bring into school.

EQUIPMENT

All Key Stage 2 pupils will again be receiving a pencil case with their name on and their own pencil, rubber, ruler, sharpener etc.

All Key Stage 1 pupils will be receiving a pencil pot with their name on and their own pencil, rubber and ruler.

Therefore the children will not be sharing equipment and will not require a pencil case from home.

WATER BOTTLES

A water bottle clearly labelled with your child's name. These can be refilled throughout the day. These must be taken home daily for washing.

PARKING

This worked superbly well in the autumn term. We therefore ask that no cars are parked for dropping off or picking up on the bend. It is essential we have pedestrian access for the start / end of day staggered times. Please be aware that you will be asked to move by the council employed Parking Officers who regularly patrol our area. Thank you.

As we will need to use all gates and entrances to safely get the children on and off site please can we ask that cars are parked in the church car park, the church social club car





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park or the public car park opposite school. Foot paths will need to be kept clear as we using a one way system. Please be mindful of the residents of Mallard Close.

The Government have requested where possible for pupils and parents to walk or cycle to school. We do have a secure bike rack on site that you can use.

DROPPING OFF / PICKING UP ARRANGEMENTS

This system continues to require patience from us all and we thank you for your help and cooperation in ensuring the safety of our children, staff and yourselves when on site.

SIBLINGS

Siblings may all come into school together at the same time. This can be your choice with whatever year group one of the children is in.

SIBLINGS WILL BE THE LAST GROUP TO BE DISMISSED AT THE END OF THE DAY.

The older children will join their younger siblings and be dismissed together. Their end of day collection point will be with the youngest child in the family.

In the interest of safety and following guidelines only **one parent / carer can drop or pick up.**

First Aid slips will be handed over at the end of the day if your child has needed one.

ARRIVING AT THE CORRECT TIME FOR DROPPING OR PICKING UP IS ESSENTIAL.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE TOO EARLY. Please arrive at the time allocated. The system will not work if we have late arrivals or those arriving too early. Please stick to the time you are given and do not be offended if you are asked to wait somewhere else.





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Gate A – Main Blue Gate



Gate B – Gate to the School Office area.





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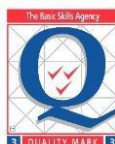
Gate C – Blue gate next to the car park.



Arriving at school / Picking Up

Please do not congregate in small groups around the gates for the safety of everyone. All children must be handed over / collected by an adult. After you have dropped your child/ren at school the Government have asked for you not to congregate with other parents. Whilst waiting to "Drop and Go" or "Collect and Go" please do so in accordance with social distancing measures.

Well done to our children for now using the DROP AND GO system in the morning. Please hand your child over at the gate and walk down Mallard Close before crossing over before Gate B and walking back up the opposite side of the road.





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We are aware some of the younger children like to be walked in and if you do this please exit via GATE B. We request that Key Stage 2 pupils enter on their own.

START OF THE DAY

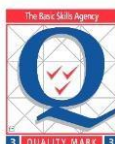
Year Group	Drop off Time	ENTER via GATE	EXIT via GATE
RECEPTION	8:45am	A	A
1	8:30am	A	B
2	8:30am	A	B
3	8:30am	C	B
4	8:35am	A	B
5	8:35am	C	B
6	8:35am	C	B

END OF THE DAY

Year Group	Pick up Time	ENTER via GATE	EXIT via GATE
RECEPTION	2:45pm Reception outdoor area	A	A
1	2:45pm Prayer Garden	A	B
2	2:50pm White Doors Main Building	A	B
3	2:50pm Car Park	C	B
4	3:00pm White Doors Main Building	A	B
5	3:00pm Reception outdoor area	A	A
6	3:00pm Car Park	C – pupils will be sent out to you	C

Year 1 parents: Please walk down the pub car park side of Mallard Close and cross over at Gate A to enter school.

Reception parents: Please walk down the orchard garden side of Mallard Close and enter school at Gate A.





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There will be marshalls on the playground to direct you. Please remember that staff cannot be approached and once you have collected your child to leave the playground promptly.

Thank you for helping and supporting us in reopening school in the safest way possible for our children.

For the children there is no change to their day once in school. They have become familiar with the changes and responded superbly in the autumn term. Keeping it the same will help them settle back in quickly and maximise their learning.

My thanks to all the teaching and support staff, our office team, our cleaning and kitchen team, Mr O Kane and the Governors for their continued hard work and support.

We cannot wait to see you all – we have missed you!

Wishing you all a Happy Saint David's Day and we ask him to pray for us and watch over us all.



Mrs R A Girling
Head Teacher

