



## St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are thrilled to be welcoming back all of our pupils and families on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March; it will be so lovely to have our whole school family back together once again. The children have all been amazing and worked so hard with their remote learning over the past 9 weeks. We would also like to thank our staff and all of the parents for their hard work and support during this difficult period.

### COVID-19 Update

When we return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will need to follow Government guidelines carefully in order to keep our children, staff and their families safe and well. Our Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect any changes and is available to read in detail on our website.

It is compulsory for all children to return to school unless they themselves are extremely clinically vulnerable. We will continue the staggered drop off and pick times as this is a required health and safety rule that has been given to us by the Government. As a reminder the drop off and pickups are:

Class	Drop off and pick up location	Drop off time	Pick up time
Reception	Reception gate	8:50am	3:10pm
Year 1	Gate to the left of the school building	8:50am	3:10pm
Year 2/3	Gate to the left of the school building	8:40am	3:15pm
Year 4	Gate to the right of the school building	8:50am	3:15pm
Year 5	Gate to the right of the school building	8:50am	3:15pm
Year 6	Gate to the right of the school building	8:40am	3:10pm

If we can stick to these times and move off from the gates quickly, it should hopefully ensure any congestion doesn't occur. Can I remind parents that we must stay 2m apart in order to prevent the spread of the virus and this is vital during drop off and pick-ups.

If you or your child has 1 or more of the symptoms of Covid-19 it is vital that you inform school, self-isolate and keep your child away from school. Only those family members displaying any symptoms will need to get a test, however everyone in the house must self-isolate. This also includes any family members in your support or childcare bubble.

The current Government guidance is that the person with symptoms should self-isolate for 10 days and that all other household members should self-isolate for 10 days. If another member of the household starts to develop symptoms within this 10 day period, the 10 day isolation must restart for everyone within the household. To reiterate, the three symptoms are:

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual, and/or
- a high temperature (37.8 degrees or higher) – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), and/or
- A loss of or change to your normal sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.



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Children that have had any of the symptoms of Covid-19 should not return to school until after the 10- day self-isolation period or once they have received a negative test result and are well again. This is an ever-evolving situation so we must all continue to be vigilant and follow current Government guidance. If a child has a positive test result then the 'whole bubble' that this child belongs to would have to isolate for 10 days.

Children are going to get sniffles and sore throats and usually they are fine to stay at school when they have the common cold. I want to assure parents that increased hygiene is an ongoing priority. We are actively promoting 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' and would ask families to discuss this with their children.

Staff in school are now required to wear a mask in communal areas of the school but do not need to when they are teaching their class, providing they are maintaining a 2 metre distance wherever possible. They are also tested twice a week for Covid-19 as part of the Government's Asymptomatic Testing. Any positive tests would be reported to Track and Trace and guidelines would be followed to isolate children and adults where there has been close contact.

Breakfast club and Afterschool club is still allowed to run under the new guidance. If you'd like a place for your child, then please contact the school office who can discuss this with you. Other after school clubs will resume after the Easter Break.

### **Water Bottles**

The healthy school rules state that children should only be drinking water during the school day and sugar free drinks for lunch time. This is to maximise brain function and healthy teeth. School provide all children with a water bottle that they can fill for free from the school water dispensers. If children bring in their own water bottles they must not contain anything with sugar in.

### **PE**

Days for PE will return to normal and are as follows:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Day</b>
Reception	Thursday
Year 1	Tuesday
Year 2/3	Tuesday
Year 4	Monday
Year 5	Friday
Year 6	Monday

We have always asked that children leave their PE kits in school until half term, when they will be sent home. Due to COVID it is more important now that this happens. Please also remember to name all your child's belongings as if they are misplaced they are very difficult to find.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

We have something special planned this week to allow our children to settle back into school after their time at home. It will give all children an opportunity to regroup with their teacher and friends and to get used to the school environment and routine. It will focus on the children's well-being and mental health as well as their academic progress. More information to follow.

### **Open Door Policy**

Please always remember, even during COVID I always operate an open door policy. If you have any issues, concerns or worries then please contact the school office for an appointment to discuss it. I am also often available on the gates during the day for a quick chat or to make a longer appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Geddes  
*Head of School*