



# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Grange Road, Northampton NN3 2AX

Tel: 01604 403511/409582

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kirstie Yuen

[www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk)

Friday, 22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you are all well and keeping safe. We wanted to write to you to address some questions we have received and to give you some more information on the possible reopening of school in the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, we will receive more information from the Government, who will confirm whether UK schools will reopen to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. If the Government confirm that this will be happening, the children will start back at school on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This is to allow 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June as staff training days. It is vital that staff are allowed time to be fully trained and to ensure that all points on our risk assessment are in place before the children return. Our main priority is ensuring that school is ready and safe for the children and staff.

## **Year 1:**

- Children in Year 1 will begin school at 9:30am and finish school at 2:30pm. Staggered start and finish times have been applied across the school, to limit the number of adults and children entering and leaving school at the same time. Parents with children in more than one group, will need to drop off at the latest time and pick up at the earliest to limit contact with others. Only 1 adult in the family at any time can accompany the child to school and will need to adhere to 2 metre distancing to protect other families when on site.
- Children should be dropped off in the car in the layby outside the Foundation Stage classrooms. Please ensure you do not do this earlier than 9:30am, as Foundation Stage pupils will be dropped off before Year 1. We ask that parents do not get out of the car and that children are prepared to get out of the car with their belongings, so that we can minimise gatherings of adults. Two members of staff will be waiting for the children so that they can guide them into the classroom. If parents walk into school, we ask that you walk into school with your child and then leave them with the designated adult who will be outside the year one classroom (Just outside of the outside area, nearest to the prayer garden). You will not be able to come inside the classroom.
- Year 1 will be in a group of a maximum of 15 children and will be spaced between the 4 Key Stage 1 classrooms. We are aiming to make the groups



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smaller where possible, but this does depend on staffing and how many children chose to come back to school. The children will remain in their group for the day and will not mix with other groups within the school, to adhere to social distancing as much as possible.

- Lunchtime will be from 12-1pm. Children will eat their lunch in the classroom and then go into different areas across the playground and field. They will be playing in their set group but not mixing with children from other groups. This also applies to break times, as all lunch and break times have been staggered between groups. Please ensure that packed lunch and a snack is provided in a disposable carrier bag and that all items in the packed lunch are disposable, similar to when we go on school trips. This is to ensure that items from home are not brought in and to limit cross-contamination. We will provide drinks for the children so that water bottles do not need to be brought in.
- Staffing will be different because we have staff who are shielding. Therefore, we have used staff across the school to ensure that smaller groups can be maintained. This means your child may not have their usual teacher or be in groups with their close friends, but we have tried to ensure that familiar adults are in their group and the children know each other as they are in the same year group.
- Children will have daily lessons such as Phonics and Maths. Children will be sat at tables and these will be placed, where possible, 2m apart from one another.
- The children will use the Key Stage one corridor toilets. They will be free to go to the toilet when they wish but one at a time. The toilets will be cleaned at the end of the day.
- Please ensure children do not bring book bags or toys from home. We have removed various resources from the classroom to ensure that cross-contamination is limited as much as possible, so we are limiting what the children bring into the classroom too. We will provide writing equipment and each child will have their own wallet with resources they will need for the day, such as stationery.
- Staff will not be wearing PPE all the time but they will be required to at times; for example, if your child has an accident or needs first aid. This will be explained to them beforehand.



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- Children will be using hand sanitizer and washing hands regularly whilst at school. We will be wiping down tables at break and lunchtimes, and after school a thorough clean of the classroom and resources will take place.
- If your child has any symptoms such as a high temperature or a cough, you will be asked to pick them up immediately. We encourage you to take their temperature daily so that you know they are fit and well to come into school. We also have an infra-red thermometer so we hope to be able to carry out temperature checks on arrival, which we do hope gives you some reassurance.

It is important to note that children in Year 1 will find it difficult so socially distance. Whilst we will encourage social distancing where possible, but realistically it is not going to be possible all the time, particularly at lunch and break times. This is a strange time for everyone and school will look different to the children. Whilst we want the children to feel a sense of normality, this means we cannot always guarantee that children will be 2m apart at all times.

Our behaviour policy is currently being updated to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and will be circulated separately at a later date. To support your decision making and aid us in our planning, we kindly ask you to consider the following before deciding whether to return your child to school:

- If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable they should not return at this stage until the government confirm it is safe to do so.
- If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.
- My child understands the need to social distance and will wash hands when directed to do so.
- At this time, it is appreciated that there are many different personal circumstances and as families you will make decisions which are right for your family needs. I want to reassure you that we are not going to be pressurising anyone to send their children to school, you must make the right decision for you and your family.

Thank you to those who have replied to the school office to say if their child is returning or not. Those who have replied stating that their child will be returning have been allocated to a group. Please note that if you have not replied, you must not turn up on 3<sup>rd</sup> June without letting us know, as all groups have been carefully



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planned to allow for as few children in groups as possible to socially distance as much as possible. We are setting a deadline of **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May** to e-mail the school office with your child's name and year group if you wish for them to return to school on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. If you do not let us know by then, your child will not be able to attend for that week.

Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time and I will continue to keep you updated with information as it is received.

Best Wishes,

Mrs. K. Yuen

Executive Headteacher