

St. Patrick's R.C.P.S.

WELCOME



Back to School September 2020



Information booklet for parents

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you are staying safe and well and looking forward to a break from home-schooling! This booklet should be read alongside your child's booklet. Most of the information is in there. We ask that you also watch the video. This will give you and your child more of an idea of what it's going to be like returning to school in September. However, we don't want to overwhelm you with too much information right now. Plus, things may change before September!

All of the measures our school is putting in place is a direct response to the Local Authority's directives and government guidance. You will find that the majority of schools across Manchester are putting in very similar measures to suit their school.

So...

The information you will receive today is:

- This booklet for parents
- Booklet for children
- A video about returning to school (click on the link in the booklets)
- Arrangements for working parents for before school provision
- An amended school calendar for 2020-21

Before returning to school in September, we have a plan in place.

Date	What will happen?
Tuesday, 1 st September	Staff return to school for their induction Your parents will register you online
Wednesday, 2 nd September	Parent & child induction – this will be done over the phone. Staff will ring your parents
Thursday, 3 rd September	Only families with surnames beginning A-J will come to school for induction
Friday, 4 th September	Only families with surnames beginning K-Z will come to school for induction
Monday 7 th September	Everyone comes to school

The induction material you will receive in September will be:

- An appendix to the attendance policy
- An appendix to the behaviour policy
- Home/school agreement
- A link for data collection

You may be wondering why we are sending you so much information – it's a bit like starting school all over again and it is exactly like that. Many places, including schools, are not going to be the same so we need to ensure everyone knows what to do. This is to make sure that we can all stay safe. We are hoping that all of the information combined will help you and your families get ready to return. We hope that we can answer all of your questions and we look forward to seeing you again in September.

What are the arrangements for dropping my child off at school?

- Only one adult per household will be able to drop off and collect their child/ren.
- Older children are encouraged to travel to and from school on their own.
- Drop off is from 8.40 a.m.
- There will be NO PARKING on the double yellow lines on New Allen Street.
- Parents will join a queue on New Allen Street and follow a one way system on the school grounds.
- Lessons will start at 9.00 o'clock.
- Gates will close at 9.00 o'clock.
- If you are late, you must phone the office (834-9004) and then wait at the gate for a member of staff to come and collect your child.
- Working parents – the earliest start time for you is 8.00 a.m. – there is a separate leaflet about how to register for breakfast provision.
- There are more details in the child's booklet about dropping them off to school.

What if I have responsibility for other children (for example, toddlers or teenagers)?

Unfortunately, you will need to find an alternative arrangement. Aged +11 children will have to wait away from the school gate or in the car. If you have a pushchair, please wait until other parents have dropped off or collected their child/ren and we will assist you. We ask that you come through the school gate and wait near the picnic tables on playground 2.

Does my child have to return to school?

In short, yes. The government are expecting all children and staff to return to school in September. The only exceptional circumstances might be if your child has any medical condition that puts them in the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' category. Even then, we will undertake an individual risk assessment for them to do our best to ensure they can return to school. Otherwise, all children will be expected to return to school full-time. Our SENDCo, Mrs Shaw, will work closely with parents who have children with additional needs to ensure that they have everything they need to return to school confidently and safely. We will send out our new attendance policy for parents to read as there will be additional expectations about how to report your child's absence, especially if it is covid-19 related.

What will happen at lunchtimes?

If your child usually brings a packed lunch, they can continue to do so. However, we would prefer this to be in a bag that can be thrown away at the end of lunchtime. However, we do accept that parents prefer to send a lunchbox. If this is the case, we trust that this will be carefully washed each evening and sent in clean the next day.

Children who usually have a school dinner, will be provided with a packed lunch each day. There will be a variety of food and a menu is provided in the children's booklet.

Will there still be a mid-morning snack break in September?

We ask that you send your child with a piece of fruit which they can eat at their desk mid-way through the morning along with their water. This means you no longer have to pay for their snack on SIMs pay. Children in Nursery will receive free milk. Children in Reception, Year 1 & 2 will receive free fruit. They will probably be given this as an additional snack in the afternoon.

What is my child allowed to bring to school?

Not a lot is the answer to this question. Your child will need to bring in their bottled water, a piece of fruit, their packed lunch if you provide it as well as water-proof coat. We will provide everything else – book bag and stationery. Children are not to bring in anything else from home.

What about P.E. kits?

For the time-being, children won't need to bring a P.E. kit. The governors have relaxed the school uniform to allow children to wear trainers if you so wish. Alongside this, we have been told to prioritise outdoor exercise rather than indoor. Therefore, all PE lessons will take place outside. Children can just throw on their coat and get going! We are looking forward to much more freedom in this area of the curriculum as we know children love being active and we know this has so many benefits for them.

Is there any change to school uniform?

As you know, we consulted with children, parents and staff about our school uniform. 75% of children and parents voted to keep the school uniform the way it is – with the school badge. Governors agreed with children and parents. They want to keep the school uniform the way it is. However, they did decide that children no longer need to wear a shirt and tie. Children should wear a white polo t-shirt, the school jumper/cardigan with the school badge, tailored trousers or skirt along with either black shoes or black trainers. They don't want children wearing trainers that are branded with expensive logos – save these as fashion items to wear at home. It will be important for children to wear a water-proof jacket with a hood as they'll be spending more time outside during lunchtime.

What do I do if I need to contact my child's teacher?

From September, parents will need to contact the school office to make a telephone appointment with your child's class teacher. This is something we are all going to have to get used to. To keep staff safe, they will be practising social distancing measures so will be keeping their distance from other adults. Likewise, if they need to speak to you, they will telephone you after school.

What will school do if my child shows symptoms of the virus?

We will put your child in isolation and look after them from a safe distance. We will have a designated isolation room in school. A member of staff will wear PPE and stay nearby for your child. We will telephone you and ask you to book a test immediately. You can do this by calling 111.

You or another responsible adult (not a teenager) will need to come and collect your child immediately. This is why it is essential that we have up to date mobile numbers for you and your emergency contacts. Once you have the results of the test, you must inform us at school. If the test is positive you should follow the guidelines: COVID 19: Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance. We will also need to take action to protect the rest of your child's class so it is essential that we have good communications set up with you.

What will happen if another child or adult in the same class contracts the virus?

If this happens, we will notify everyone in the class and we will follow the guidelines. Everyone in the class will need to self isolate at home for 14 days. They will not be allowed in school until the 15th day. Your child cannot join another class in school because this will cause contamination. Parents need to be prepared for something like this to happen and you may need to discuss this with your employers.

What will happen about my child's education if they have to self-isolate?

Don't worry, we have a plan. When lockdown first happened, your child came home with a learning pack. It's important they keep this as they may need it again. We will also have new learning packs ready because we anticipate that this will happen again. Also, we will revert straight back to learning on class dojo so it is important that you don't shut this down. It is important that you have your child set up on the other online learning platforms: Mathletics, Timestables Rockstars, Spag.com and Bugclub.

What will happen about all the school trips the classes used to go on?

We have been told that the Year 4 swimming lessons will recommence in the Autumn term.

We have our fingers crossed that the Art galleries, libraries and museums will be open shortly. Teachers will be planning trips to fit in with their topics as much as possible, particularly ones that are outside. For example, teachers are already planning a trip for Years 5 & 6 to visit Victorian buildings really close to our school. We are very keen to ensure that the children don't miss out on any visits which will enhance the topics and enrich the curriculum.

How is the school supporting social distancing measures?

To do this we have had to make some changes to the school grounds and school building, including classrooms. There are things that will look quite different and we want to make sure you know what school and classrooms will look like.

- School gate to open at 8.40 a.m. to give families more time to arrive at school.
- NO PARKING ALLOWED ON NEW ALLEN STREET on the double yellow lines. We ask that you park further away from school and walk.
- The pavement on New Allen Street will be used for parents to queue up to come onto the school site.
- Parents will use the vertical posts on the fence as a guide to social distance themselves from other parents.

- Signage with arrows to direct parents where to go. We will have a one way system in place.
- Markings and signage in and around school to remind everyone to social distance.
- Designated entry and exit points to the building for different groups (as much as possible).
- Children will be grouped in their class and will stay with this group. They will see other groups of children but won't come into contact with them.
- Lunchtimes will be staggered and each class will have their own allocated space on the playgrounds. There will be plenty of space for them to play.
- The children won't share their PE equipment with anyone from another class.
- Classes have been organised so that desks are facing the front and children will sit in pairs.
- When children line up and move around the school, they will keep a safe distance from each other.
- Children will sit at the same desk each lesson and each day. (not EYFS)
- Lunch will be delivered to the classroom and eaten either in class or outside.
- Staff will social distance from their colleagues by following the guidance.
- School will provide an additional staff welfare room for colleagues during their lunch break.
- Staff will social distance from parents during drop off & collections.

How is the school ensuring high standards of hygiene and minimising the risk of contamination?

We have risk assessed the entire school site. This has been approved by governors and sent to the local authority.

- No adults on site except staff and contractors
- Training for staff, children and parents
- Temperature gun used to scan temperature if symptoms of coronavirus occur
- Supervised hand washing throughout the day
- Hand sanitizers around the school for everyone to use
- Each class will stay together and not mix with other classes
- Children bringing limited belongings to school from home
- Increased cleaning schedule throughout the day
- Increased ventilation – windows open
- Internal doors to remain closed – this is to keep us in line with fire regulations and also to stop anyone entering a room and exceeding the capacity
- Only certain sections of the school will be used by each class
- No communal gatherings, e.g. assemblies, prayer & worship done in class
- Increased amount of outdoor learning and play
- An identified isolation room for anyone showing symptoms of the virus
- Providing PPE for staff for use in first aid and where someone shows symptoms of the virus

Thank you for reading this booklet. We look forward to seeing you very soon. If you have any questions, please ask a member of staff during your induction interview and they will be happy to help.

Please use the QR code to access the video. This is also on our website and class-doj.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lQQAYWMGIHuLwZHKb4ZswA297HOslHRw/view?usp=sharing>



Stay with us Lord, on our journey.