



St Pius X RCVA Primary Parent Advice for September return 2020

Year 1 to Year 6 Arrangements

As the term comes to a close, we are planning for the safe return of all of our children in September. We would like to share the details of what this will look like and how you can continue to support the measures we are taking to keep everyone in our school community as safe as possible. The following advice follows the new local authority risk assessment for Durham schools. Any changes between now and September will be in response to local and national guidance.

Children will return to school on **Thursday 3rd September 2020**. Before this date, we will be back in touch to confirm details of arrival times and the entrances to be used by each class but at present we anticipate the following arrangement

8.45a.m. Class 4 (and any siblings from other classes)

8.55 a.m. Class 3 (and any siblings)

9.05 a.m. Class 2 (and any siblings)

9.10 a.m. Year 1 (and siblings)

New starters with siblings are asked to arrive as a family group from 9.15a. m. Other new starters are invited at 9.30a.m. School staff will be in touch with the parents of new starters to discuss drop off arrangements. We will make contact before the end of the Summer holiday and hopefully arrange a visit at the end of the holiday or on 1st or 2nd of September before other pupils return.

Children will arrive between 8.45a.m. and 9.15a.m. to allow us to receive the children safely. Parents and carers are asked to observe social distancing on arrival and when leaving the vicinity of the school. Only 1 adult can accompany a child to school. We will collect Classes 2 , 3 and 4 pupils at the gate. They will enter the school building with classroom staff. We will then ask parents to take Class 1 pupils to the EYFS door

where they will be met by classroom staff. Parents are asked to leave the school grounds as soon as possible so we can secure the school site.

Parents are not allowed into the school building, as part of the wider DCC Risk Assessment, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

We will not be able to offer any breakfast or afterschool clubs for at least the first 4 weeks. This is because we are unable to mix pupils from different classroom bubbles and do not have the capacity to manage this because of staffing and space. We will review this during the first few weeks to assess how manageable it would be moving forward to offer extended provision.

Our school will be cleaned thoroughly before and after school. Staff will also spray and clean classroom areas and shared toilet areas throughout the day. Staff will wear PPE during these times and at other specific times eg when administering first aid.

Children will go straight to their classrooms on arrival. They will wash their hands immediately and will continue to observe regular handwashing throughout the day. We are advised that use of sanitizer gel for children is also a good way to stop spread of the virus. We will have sanitizer stations in each class and parents should let us know, and their children know, if they do not want pupils to use the gel. Tissues will also be available in all classroom and main areas and pupils will be encouraged to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.'

Children will remain in their classroom bubble with their designated staff for all activities including playtimes and lunchtimes.

Children should wear uniform where possible and this should be removed when they get home to avoid any risk to family. If this can be clean each day, this would also help contain the virus.

Children will be asked to wear PE kits / sports clothing on PE days so that there is no need to change / bring additional items into school.

Children will keep their coats and packed lunches in the classroom with them in a designated area. Lunch boxes and water bottles will be wiped with a disinfecting wipe on arrival. Water bottles will be brought in and returned home each day so they can be cleaned at home.

No other items should be brought into school at first. We will let you know when the children need other items

School meals will be served in classrooms for the first couple of weeks. As we are also having a new kitchen fitted, we have opted for school buffet style packed lunch bags

for the first couple of weeks so that we can get the kitchen back to full working order. (school meals will continue to be provided free of charge for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year2. Free School Meals will still be offered to all other eligible children. Free School Meals vouchers will not be available from the start of the new term. The price of a school meal for all other children will be £2.10 per day)

Classrooms will be set up with forward facing tables so that the class teacher can instruct pupils from the front of the classroom. Children will not need to be socially distant from their friends within the class group but will sit side by side and be instructed not to share equipment where unnecessary. Pupils will have their own stationary items and no pencil cases or equipment should be brought in from home. Staff will support learning from the front of the class. Marking will be done at the end of the session or from behind the child as the class are working. Face to face work will be avoided and staff will not allow intervention groups to run beyond 15 minutes at any time.

Our curriculum will focus upon helping pupils to understand the changes to school systems, help them to make sense of the new environment and catching up on key skills. For the first 4 weeks we will be finding out where we need to direct catch up in phonics, reading, writing and maths. We will use afternoons to support individuals and groups of children from the same class wherever this support is required.

PE lessons will take place outdoors. Equipment will be allocated to classes and deep cleaned before another group uses it.

Any other equipment used to support pupils in their learning will be class based. All resources moving across class must be left for 72 hours between exchanging from one class to another.

Pupils who are clinically vulnerable will return to school with an individual risk assessment. A GP or paediatrician should contact the parents of clinically vulnerable pupils to inform them of any specific instructions on school return. If this doesn't happen, parents should make contact with the GP and school to ensure plans are in place for safe care in school.

Pupils who suffer from asthma should seek advice from a GP and should be supported over the Summer to be able to administer their own medication where they can. Staff will be required to wear full PPE to administer all medication.

Pupils will leave school from 2.45pm to 3.15pm. We will dismiss younger children to oldest but will allow siblings to leave together. Parents are asked to leave the site immediately so that pathways and doorways don't become congested.

Inside school we will continue to follow our social distancing movement around the school. Corridors are marked out to show distancing between pupils and children will stick to the left as they move around. Pupils from each class will be allocated a specific area for playtimes and staff will take pupils to toilets on a rota so there is no mixing of class groups.

Most importantly, we will be doing our very best to support your children in a positive and enjoyable return to school. As we accept that these routines are now part of our new way of doing things, we will have the wellbeing of your children at the heart of what we do. Our risk assessments will change as we journey through the first few weeks and months and we will keep parents informed at every stage.

Please note that

Children should not come to school if they, or any of their family ,are displaying symptoms. Our usual absence procedures remain in place. Parents and carers should ring the school office on the first day of absence to give details of illness and update school following any testing or diagnosis.

*Testing for COVID-19 is available to everyone whatever their age. Testing is available through the NHS. Pupils or a family member or Staff member displaying symptoms will be advised to self-isolate and will **not be permitted into school until 7/14-day isolation completed.***

FAQ

What will happen if my child becomes unwell in school and is displaying symptoms of COVID 19 ?

Your child will be taken to an area of the school where a member of staff can remain 2m away from him / her. We will remain with your child until you can have them collected. This should be within 30 minutes. We would then ask that you contact 111 so that you can be advised on testing

What happens if a child or adult in the class tests positive for COVID-19 ?

The Health Protection Agency team will contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school - as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

- If a Pupil or member of Staff **tests positive**, they are instructed to follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to **self-isolate for at least 7 days** from the onset of their symptoms and then return

to school **only if** they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

- The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.
- If a member of Staffs/Pupils household tests positive the Pupil/Staff member must self-isolate for the full 14 days.

Will my child have access to work if they have to stay at home and isolate ?

School staff will provide remote learning or work packs to children who are forced to self isolate.

Can children of all ages be tested for COVID19 ?

Yes. Testing is available for all children, even under 5's. Testing is crucial to the day to day running of the school as we need to be aware of where pupils and staff are at risk.

What happens if the school is put into lockdown ?

If the school is put into lockdown, following consultation with the public health team, classroom staff will link remote learning or work packs to the curriculum planned for that group of children, as if they were in school.

Who can drop my child at school and pick them up ?

Anyone in your 'bubble' as defined by government guidance at the time. Childminders have specific guidance to walk to school where possible, avoid public transport or travel in a private vehicle where working with children from different settings.

Can my child wear a face covering at school ?

Children can wear a face covering to come to school but are asked to remove reusable face coverings and put in a plastic bag before coming into school. This should remain in their pocket or tray until the end of the day.

Will staff be wearing face coverings and PPE ?

Staff are only required to wear PPE when attending to first aid, supervising a pupil with symptoms, cleaning toilet and classroom areas or carrying out intimate care. Staff will also wear PPE to distribute school dinners where appropriate.

How will lunchtimes work ?

For the first couple of weeks, children will order their meal at the start of the day as the register is taken. They will receive a hot meal delivered to their classroom so pupils from different classrooms aren't in the same area. If the weather is fine, we have arranged for meals to be in takeaway cartons for the first couple of weeks so that we have the option of an outdoor picnic.

What happens if my child is reluctant to come into school after such a long break?

We will work with parents on an individual basis to support a gradual transition into school for any child with anxieties. It's important to remember that it will be entirely normal for some children to be nervous about their return to school. It helps to talk children through what the day will look like, who their teacher will be, the positives of seeing their friends again. We will have lots of resources on hand to help, access to our school counsellor and time for our staff to work with pupils who find the transition difficult.

How will I send in dinner money, messages for school staff ?

When children are met by their classroom staff, all envelopes, payments etc can be put into a container that will be sent to the school office. If you have messages for school staff, these should be put into note form but ideally they should be emailed or rung into the main office. Staff will not be available for face to face conversations on arrival as they will be needed to escort pupils to their class area.

What should I do if my child is distressed on the first day / days when arriving in school ?

Take a short walk, wait for the rest of the children to come into school and return 'after the rush' when we will have the time to reassure and support you and your child. Stay calm. This is a huge step for many children who have been at home for a long period of time.

When will my child have PE?

As PE is delivered by sports' coaches so we will be letting you know the days when your child needs to come in a PE kit. All PE lessons must take place outside so children will need warm clothing.

Will my child still get outdoors for playtimes ?

Yes, our school grounds will be used to allocate areas to each class. Pupils will be able to enjoy the outdoor space with their class group on a weekly rota as all play equipment will need to be cleaned before another class can access it. For example, children will have either the outdoor classroom and play frame / the scooters and bike are/ the main yard or the field.

Will my child still read each day ?

Children will still read each day but reading books will not be sent home initially. Class teachers will bring sets of books into the classroom to cover the reading range within the class. Books can't be taken and returned to a communal area and won't be sent home because of the risk of transmission of the virus. We will review this in line with any changes to our risk assessment from September.