

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are happy to welcome your children back after the Summer break. We are hopeful that we will be able to gradually return to a normal school routine and all the wonderful events that make our school the lovely place that it is.

Start and finish times We will continue to adhere to the arrival and finish times that we had before the Summer break and will update parents weekly on any changes. It is hoped that our first step towards normality will be the merging of the classes by key stage for arrival and at the end of the school day. This will still ensure our youngest children can enjoy a less congested start to the school day.

Before and After School childcare Will continue for those who need it until we are able to resume normal clubs and activities. Parents should contact the school office to book a place.

Uniform We are looking forward to welcoming back our children in full school uniform. We have found that PE days have been so much better with children arriving in PE kits. We would therefore ask children to continue to arrive in school in PE kits for now. Class teachers will let you know which day is applicable to your child.

Equipment Children will only need to bring in their water bottle and packed lunch (if applicable). We would ask that children do not bring in pencil cases. Homework and reading books will be able to go to and from school as normal.

Dinner money Please send in dinner money for the week on a Monday morning in an envelope with your child's name on it. The cost has increased to £2.15 per day/£10.75 per week. If your child is now in year 3 you will need to pay for their dinner as they are now KS2.

Bubbles and Self-Isolation We will have a gradual move away from bubbles over the coming weeks. We do feel it is the best interests of the children to do this gradually. As well as the current infection rate to consider, we are aware that our children have enjoyed and benefitted from smaller groups and lots of yard space. We will need to carefully reintroduce wider groups so that the children adapt happily. As rules around self- isolation have changed, we have a new Risk Assessment and Infection Control Management Plan to outline what we need to do if we have an outbreak of COVID in school. Children do not need to isolate due to contact with a COVID case so this means that we should not have to close 'bubbles' if there is a positive case of Covid.

People who are positive with Covid themselves will still need to isolate but this will not affect the rest of the pupils.

Pupils with symptoms of COVID should continue to be tested via a PCR testing centre and should not come to school until the test results are confirmed. Children and staff with symptoms of COVID will still be isolated in school and sent home to seek a test.

### Hand Hygiene

We will continue to ask children to wash their hands regularly and will continue to provide hand sanitiser; the children and staff have got into good habits with this so we want to continue this into the winter months to reduce the risk of more viruses spreading.

Face Coverings staff and adults will no longer be required to wear a face covering on site. Some staff could still wear face coverings where they are working with different children or adults than normal. Some will still wear face shields when working closely with children. Visitors will wear face coverings when coming into school to work with the children.

I hope that this information clarifies the arrangements for September. All aspects of the day to day running of the school will be reviewed week by week and we might be asked to go back to the previous bubble arrangements and timings for school for a short period of time in the case of an outbreak. We really hope this isn't the case but we would be able to respond quickly to that situation if it arises. We are very excited at the prospect of bringing the children and parents back into the school building to enjoy all of the wonderful additional school events that we have all missed.

We have a proposed 'roadmap' planned which will see our 'bubbles' gradually join and timings of the day look a little more normal. This plan also includes open afternoons for parents of pupils in each class and a gradual return to parents coming in and out of school. I have also now taken up the permanent position of headteacher across both St Pius X RCVA Primary School and Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms. This will mean that I will continue to work across two sites but will be available to speak with parents and pupils whenever needed. This is a really positive step for the development and sustainability of both small schools and I know that we will continue to benefit from this partnership. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Yours Faithfully

Joanne Cruise

Headteacher