



St Bede's Catholic Primary School

Howlett Hall Road, Denton Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7HS

Telephone: 0191 2743430

Email: admin@stbedes.newcastle.sch.uk Website: www.stbedes.newcastle.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs L Young

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Keys



Thursday 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a lovely summer holiday and managed to spend some quality time with your families. I am writing to inform you of the organisation plans for the re-opening of school next week. We cannot wait to welcome the children back on Wednesday 8th September and are looking forward to a good school year.

As you will be aware, many of the restrictions that have been in place are lifting however as schools re-open again after the summer we are all hoping that there is not an increase in infection rates. With this in mind, we will still be maintaining some of the routines and systems that we had in place last academic year – at least until half term - until I can review the situation on our return.

We will be following the government guidance linked to maintaining high levels of hygiene (e.g. sanitisation and hand washing), increased cleaning within the building and increased ventilation of the building.

Morning Entry:

I am re-introducing the 'soft opening' system in the morning. This will mean that the children can enter school anytime from 8.45am (school officially starts at 8.55am) – this will ease the flow into school in the morning and reduce congestion in and around school.

Children will still be expected to sanitise as they enter the building as there is still a focus on high levels of hygiene in order to limit spread of infection.

We will be continuing the use difference entrances for different year groups in an attempt to reduce mixing (at least until we can review the situation):

Year 1 and Year 2: Howlett Hall Road gate (as last year) – gate will open from 8.45am and children will come straight into school with no lining up. A member of staff will be in the yard to meet the children from 8.45am. Parents are asked to drop their child off and leave the yard as soon as they have entered the building (in an effort to reduce contact until we can review the situation)

Year 3 and Year 4: Whickham View entrance, accessing school through the library door (as last year) – gate will open from 8.45am and children will come straight into school with no lining up. A member of staff will be outside the library door to meet the children from 8.45am. Parents are asked to drop their child off and leave as soon as they have entered the building (in an effort to reduce contact until we can review the situation)

Year 5 and Year 6: Main school entrance on Howlett Hall Road (as last year) – door will open from 8.45am and children will come straight into school with no lining up. A member of staff will be at the door to meet the children from 8.45am. Parents are asked to drop their child off and leave as soon as they have entered the building (in an effort to reduce contact until we can review the situation)

Breakfast Club:

As you will be aware, we are re-instating the morning activity club which will take place in the hall. The club will be delivered by Premier Education and costs £2.50 per day, information regarding signing your child up to attend can be found on our school website. Children in receipt of free-school meals will have the cost of the club subsidised by school (we will organise this on return through the school office). Children will arrive at the library door at the Whickham View entrance from 8.00am where they will be met by a member of staff.

After School Collection:

We will be maintaining the use of the different gates for collection for the different year groups but will no longer be operating an outdoor queueing system.

Year 1 and Year 2: 3.00pm collection. Howlett Hall Road gate (as last year) – gate will open from 2.55pm and parents are asked to wait inside the KS2 yard next to the external fences (away from the school building - in an effort to reduce contact until we can review the situation). Each class will be brought out by their teacher and line up against the building.

Can I ask parents to stand back and be patient and wait for staff to call out children's names and hand them over to parents and please leave the yard as soon as you have collected your child.

Year 3 and Year 4: 3.05pm collection. Whickham View entrance, children to be collected from the KS1 yard – gate will open from 3.00pm and parents are asked to wait inside the KS1 yard next to the Church walls (away from the school building - in an effort to reduce contact until we can review the situation). Each class will be brought out by their teacher and line up against the building. **Can I ask parents to stand back and be patient and wait for staff to call out children's names and hand them over to parents and please leave the yard as soon as you have collected your child.**

Year 5 and Year 6: 3.10pm collection. Main school entrance on Howlett Hall Road (as last year) – children will be dismissed by their teacher (as last year). **Can I ask parents to stand back and be patient and wait for staff to call out children's names and hand them over to parents and please leave as soon as you have collected your child.**

Year 6 children can walk home on their own if we have parental permission.

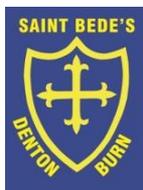
I appreciate that some parents are collecting children from more than one exit (as last year). Please do not worry, staff will look after children until they are collected.

After School Activity Club:

In order to support our parents, particularly those working later in the day, we are introducing an after-school activity club (delivered by Premier Education) costing £4.00 per day, information regarding signing your child up to attend can be found on our school website. The club runs from 3.30pm – 4.30pm (children who are attending will be supervised by school staff prior to the club starting). Children will be collected from the Whickham View entrance, from the library door, at the end of each session.

EYFS:

We are looking forward to welcoming our new pupils to Reception. They will initially be starting on a half day programme whilst they settle in and will not be joining us full time until Monday 20th September.



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School Uniform:

Boys: pale blue or yellow polo shirt, grey trousers (shorts can be worn in warm weather), royal blue sweatshirt, plain grey or black socks

Girls: pale blue or yellow polo shirt, grey skirt or pinafore (blue or yellow checked summer dresses can be worn in warm weather), royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan, plain white, grey or black socks or tights

PE kit: navy shorts, school PE t-shirt (or plain white t-shirt), sandshoes for indoor PE (trainers may be worn for outdoor PE activities)

All children are expected to wear **sensible black school shoes** (boots may be worn to travel to school in bad weather but school footwear should be worn in school)

Jewellery (other than a watch if a child is able to tell the time) and make up (including nail varnish) are not permitted.

Haircuts should be sensible and appropriate for school. Long hair must be tied up.

School bags should be small, preferably a school book bag, unless the child is going swimming or on a visit. Children should not bring pencil cases or additional stationary to school as we provide everything that is required.

Hats should be worn on sunny days.

PE Days:

On a PE day (parents will be informed of PE days once the children return to school and PE sessions will resume in week 2 – PE for Reception class will not start until the children are all in full time), children can come to school dressed in their PE kit – this must be the official school PE kit (navy shorts, school PE t-shirt (or plain white t-shirt), sandshoes or trainers, black / navy or grey leggings or jogging bottoms (PE will be outside whenever possible).

Can I ask that children always wear their school jumper or cardigan on a PE day.

There is no expectation for children to wear logoed uniform and plain polo shirts, jumpers and cardigans can be purchased from other suppliers (including from most supermarkets). If you wish to purchase logoed elements of uniform this can be done through Tots to Teams (information on our school website).

School Lunches:

Hot school lunches, served in the school dining hall, will be re-introduced for all classes. The menu for the lunches will operate on a three-week rota and can be found on the school website. School lunches are paid for via the Parentpay system (please contact the school office if you have any queries). If your child wishes to be on packed lunch these will also be eaten in the dining hall with their class mates. Can I ask parents to avoid any nut products in packed lunches due to allergies within school. We encourage healthy eating in school so please do not include fizzy pop or chocolate / sweets within packed lunches.

We will be operating a staggered lunchtime to minimise the amount of children within the hall at any one time and to reduce the amount of indoor mixing between classes. This will mean

that Year 5 and Year 6 will have a later lunchtime – in order to compensate for this, children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to eat at playtime.

Curriculum Evening:

We are introducing a Curriculum Evening for each class which will be held during the second week of term (week commencing 13th September) and will be a virtual meeting / webinar (held via Zoom). The meeting will only last approximately 30 minutes and it is very important that parents / carers make every effort to attend as key information will be given with regards to your child's learning. We will make every effort to ensure that each class Zoom meeting is held at a different time to help to support parents with children in different classes. Further information to follow.

Reception Curriculum Evening will not take place until after all of the children have joined us full time – date to follow.

Parent Consent:

Last term we sent out an electronic version of our consent forms (one linked to sharing data and one general consent form). Thank you to those parents who have already completed and submitted them. If you have not yet completed the forms can you please do so as soon as possible. The office will resend out the link at the start of next week in case you no longer have access to it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 8th September.

Kind regards
Mrs Young
(Head Teacher)