



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
Maryland Park
Stratford
London E15 1HB

Tel: 020 8534 0476

Fax: 020 8555 3068

Email: info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk

24th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy some of lovely weather as you begin to return to some of your 'normal' activities.

We are busy preparing for the return of all children on Wednesday, 2nd September. We have looked carefully at the government guidance that was released before school finished in July and have put necessary steps in place to ensure that school is as safe as possible for all returning children.

When school re-opened to more pupils in June we had over one hundred children regularly attending including Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 5, Year 6 and the key worker/vulnerable children. As a result, we had an opportunity to see our new procedures in practice and I am pleased to say that we had no reported incidents of coronavirus. We will be adding to those procedures to reflect the fact that all children will be returning. If you would like more information on the government advice, please visit the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

September 2020

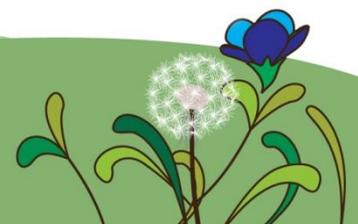
We will welcome all children back but will keep an eye on the scientific advice so we can adjust to the latest guidance. We will have children working in phase bubbles as follows:

- Nursery and Reception (EYFS)
- Year 1 and Year 2 (Key Stage 1)
- Year 3 and Year 4 (Lower Key Stage 2)
- Year 5 and Year 6 (Upper Key Stage 2)

This will mean the children in those groups will interact during the day but contact with children outside of that group will be kept to a minimum. In order to accommodate this there are changes to the break time and lunchtime for children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 so that we can maximize the use of all our spaces. So children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 will have lunch from 11:30 - 12:30. There are currently no changes to the timetable for children in Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. We will also no longer have whole school assemblies; instead the children will meet in their phase bubbles once a week for collective worship and have other collective worship sessions in their classrooms with their teachers. We will continue with our robust cleaning regimes using specialist cleaning materials this includes: cleaning equipment that has been used throughout the day, a cleaner on site during the day to clean frequent contact points such as door handles, light switches, stairs banister, taps, door push pads,



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Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

tables and chairs, toilets, etc.

The children and adults will wash their hands once they arrive in school, after break, before lunch and after lunch. We will continue to practice 'Catch It. Bin It. Kill It.'

Our extended school provision such as breakfast club and tea time club will be available from Wednesday, 2nd September - please remember you need to book by midnight for the following week. We will begin our afterschool clubs that run from 3:30 - 4:30 on Monday, 7th September. We will write to you about after school clubs in a separate letter this week, however please note that information about the following no cost clubs will be send out in a separate letter once the children have returned to school:

- **From Monday 7th September - Chess Club - Years 3-6 (maximum of children 20 children, so first come first serve) still to be confirmed**
- **From Wednesday 9th September - Art Club for Years 3-6 (maximum of 15 children, so first come first serve)**
- **From Wednesday 17th September - Mini Vinnies for years 3-5**

Below are some of the changes from 1st September 2020:

- **There will be a one-way system on the playground for dropping off and collecting children and we ask that all adults follow this system strictly.**
- **Adhere to social distancing by the classroom doors and do not go pass the yellow lines that will be in place.**
- **Only one parent/adult from each household is allowed to drop off and collect children; please do not arrive with friends or other family members to drop off or collect your children**
- **Only 2 adults allowed into the school office at any point. Please email the school in the first instance or call if you have a query.**
- **Children will not be allowed school bags only a packed lunch bag and a drawstring bag for their PE kit. No rucksacks will be allowed.**
- **We will have online resources for children to read at home instead of sending home reading books. Homework will also largely be through Google Classroom. We will update you with more information about this once the term starts.**
- **We will ask all children in years 1-6 to bring an empty pencil case to school that we will use to store their equipment to ensure that children are not sharing equipment. The pencil case will remain in school each day.**
- **All children will need to have a water bottle as the water fountains will not be available to drink from.**

Dealing with anxiety/worry

We know that most children have been out of school since March, many are excited to return to school in order to get back into a routine, see their friends and teachers, as well as continue learning in the



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way that they are most familiar with. However, it is perfectly reasonable that some children may be anxious or worried about returning to school. As a school, we will be very mindful of the children's varying needs and have built in lots of time for children to talk about their lockdown experiences and concerns with their teacher or other trusted adults in the school. However, it is important that you begin to talk to your child about their return to school. Below are links to some useful resources from the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families to support your conversation with your child:

https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/images/preparing_your_child_for_the_return_to_school.jpg

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/uploads/Files/PDFs/Resilience%20Activities/Going%20back%20to%20school.pdf>

<https://nipinthebud.org/information-films/tips-for-returning-to-school/>

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/uploads/Files/PDFs/Resilience%20Activities/Letting%20Go%20and%20Future%20plans.pdf>

Travelling to School

The latest advice from TfL is where possible please walk, cycle or scooter to school to help free up more space on public transport for others. As you know we have a bike shed and allocated spaces in the school to store bikes and scooters for the children. More travel advice information can be found at:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/schools-and-young-people/travel-guidance-for-schools?cid=reopeningeducation>

Newham Test & Trace Mobile App

Those of you that are Newham residents will know that Newham has been asked to trail The new Covid-19 NHS Test & Trace mobile phone app. The app has been developed by leading NHS medical experts working alongside Google and Apple. As you know Newham has experienced some of the most significant effects of coronavirus because of the health inequalities and vulnerabilities in the borough. That's why it's important that you download the app and help test it.

You should have received letters, emails, or texts, with a unique quick response (QR) code to allow you to easily install the app on your SMART phone. Please don't ignore them. The more people that use the app the better we will be able to stop the spread of this virus.

We ask that any child/parent displaying symptoms of coronavirus should not enter the school premises. If you have indicated that you or your child have symptoms of coronavirus we will ask that you arrange for a test and share a negative result with us before your child returns to school.

Recovery/Catch up Curriculum

Many parents will be worried about how we will support their child to ensure that they do not fall behind as they have missed direct teaching for a term. In the first half term (until the October half term break) we will be teaching the key curriculum objectives that the children need to know from the previous year. So for instance the children in year 5 will focus on the key objectives for year 4 for the first half term so we can try to ensure that they know the key concepts from the previous year. We will



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also be assessing the children in the first two weeks to try to focus our teaching to the concepts that most children do not know from the previous year's curriculum.

We realize that there are not quick fixes and children will need a lot of support as they return to the curriculum. I would also advise that parents have an additional routine at home of daily reading and basic Maths in order to help your child catch up. We have some online learning applications such as Education City, and Times Tables Rock Stars (TT Rock Stars) that I would strongly encourage parents to use daily. The school day is packed with learning from the time that your child enters their classroom. Unfortunately, we cannot squeeze anymore learning in so parents will have to play a larger role with their routines at home to support their child in catching up.

Finally, this year will be a challenging year as we try to fight the spread of this virus and return to some sort of normality. I am sure we will have many bumps along the way; however we will try our best to regularly communicate with you to ensure that you know what is happening. And we ask that parents regularly check and read the letters that we email. These are very challenging times and I think a little Christian kindness will go a long way as we will no doubt be frustrated about different things at different points. I know that this is said often, but we really are all in this together. We desperately want our children to return to school and we want them to stay safe. We realize that school is the best place for children to support their growth and development. We will always put the safety and well-being of the children first and stand with all our parents in trying to make their child's return to school as smooth as possible. If you are concerned or unclear about anything at any point do not hesitate to send an email in the first instance, call the school telephone or talk to your child's class teacher or another adult within the school. I am more than happy to meet with parents, but of course your child's class teacher should always be the first point of contact.

I continue to pray that you and your family remain safe and secure in God's arms.

God Bless.



N. Scott
Head Teacher



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