



1st September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We look forward to welcoming back the pupils in Nursery to year 6 on Thursday, 2nd September (nursery parents please refer to the letter you received with your child's start date if your child is new to St Francis').

The last two school years have been very challenging for us all! We are praying that this year will be a year where we can create more normality and stability for our children's education. We hope to be able to go back to having parents in school for various events; resume educational visits and fingers crossed no more lockdowns or school closures.

Many of the previous Covid-19 restrictions have been eased, however as a school we continue to ensure the following:

- Good hygiene for everyone including children washing hands at key times during the school day.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Children are no longer required to bring their own pencil case to school with equipment.

The current guidelines say that bubbles will not need to be used. From Monday 16 August unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. They strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend their setting as usual.

Our school staff will continue to use lateral flow test for asymptomatic testing twice per week. In addition, the school has a contingency plan in place to respond to increase Covid-19 cases.

We ask parents to be conscious of other parents, children and staff; some will continue to adhere to the social distance and mask wearing and we of course want to support and respect everyone.



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

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Safety Work

You will see as you come to school tomorrow that there are a few building works happening in the school. Over the summer, the gas company started to lay a new pipe for the gas supply to the school; this means that the Maryland Park side of the school is current under construction. You can still use this entrance to drop off and collect children; however there is limited access to the Reception classroom and limited vehicle access. We hope this will be finished by the end of next week.

In addition, there is some roof repair work that the school has undertaken above the year 5 and 6 classrooms. This will provide with the school with a new and more secure roof once finished; we expect this to last until the October half term.

It's unfortunate that both these things are happening at the same time and they will cause some inconvenience but the school remains safe for the pupils, parents and staff.

School Day

The school day for Reception to year 6 will continue to be from 8:55 - 3:15 although **children are encouraged to arrive from 8:45 to have a prompt start to the school day so that we maximize learning time.**

The nursery times remain as follows:

AM - 8:45 - 11:45

PM - 12:25 - 3:25

30 hours - 8:45 - 2:45

The children will mix across the school at different times such as break time, lunch time and assembly time.

Curriculum Meetings

Over the next few weeks, we will be holding curriculum meetings for Nursery, Reception and year 6. The Nursery and Reception meetings will provide information about the **new** Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, what your child will be learning throughout the year, how you can help your child at home and applying for full time school for children currently in Nursery.

The year 6 meeting will provide information about secondary transfer so it is vital that someone attends.

The meetings are as follows:

Monday, 6th September 2021 at 5:30 p.m. - Reception

Thursday, 16th September 2021 at 5:30 p.m. - Year 6

Thursday 7th October 2021 at 5:30 p.m. - Nursery

Unfortunately, crèche facilities are not available for these meetings.



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Afterschool Clubs

Afterschool clubs that run from 3:30 - 4:30 will begin on Monday 6th September 2021.

Breakfast and Tea Time Club both begin on Thursday, 2nd September but needs to be booked in advance.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child is dressed in the appropriate school uniform:

Nursery

- white polo shirt
- navy joggers
- navy sweatshirt
- black school shoes

Reception to Year Six:

- navy blue blazer (Years 1 - 6)
- white shirt
- school tie
- navy blue trousers, skirt or pinafore
- girls may wear white socks or navy/black tights
- boys may wear navy/black socks
- black school shoes
- grey cardigan/jumper (optional for winter uniform, but compulsory for Reception)

P.E. Kit for Reception to year 6

- white polo shirt
- navy shorts or navy joggers
- navy sweatshirt (optional for outside PE)
- plimsolls or black trainers in KS2

For girls:

- hair bands, clips and ribbons should be in white, navy blue or black
- hair styles should be simple and age appropriate (no coloured hair)
- no nail varnish or make up of any form
- small studs earring are allowed but no hoop or dangly earrings

Boys are asked to have their hair trimmed in a sober, age appropriate manner for school so there should be no:

- pony tails, mohawks, coloured hair patches
- no symbols or brand or designs cut into the scalp
- no earrings for school

All children should wear black school shoes no trainers are allowed.

God Bless,



N. Scott
Head Teacher



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