



St. Philip's
RC Primary School

10th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you for the final time before we finish for the summer holidays. I hope that this letter answers many of the questions you may have and provides the clarity you need regarding arrangements for September.

I would like to start by thanking you all for your support this year. Many of our children have not been able to return to school since March, but parents have continued to support home learning and have engaged positively with class teachers throughout.

I would also like to thank our staff who have worked hard to ensure that parents have had the resources and the support needed at this unprecedented time. We have had to adapt very quickly and have strived to achieve the right balance; taking into consideration the specific challenges faced by families. I am very proud of all our staff who have worked throughout this pandemic. They are committed to ensuring that all pupils receive the support they need when they return in September and look forward to welcoming the children back to school.

Finally, I would like to single out our Y6 pupils for special praise. On Wednesday, we celebrated their time at the school with an outdoor assembly and picnic. It is very sad that their final year has been interrupted, but since returning to school, their attitude to learning has been exemplary. As they move onto their new schools, I have no doubt that they will continue to flourish and achieve great things in the future.

Full Reopening of School

School will reopen fully (5 days per week) from Wednesday 2nd September.

The past six weeks have allowed us to test new systems and routines which has enabled us to make this decision. However, we are conscious that we will be welcoming back an additional 200 children, so it is important that we all work together to ensure that the full reopening runs smoothly and that the risk of further disruption is minimised.

Bubbles

The principle of the 'bubbles' will still apply in September, but on a larger scale. We have the option of deciding whether to base the size of bubble on classes or year groups. After careful consideration, I think it best, where possible, to start the new term with bubbles matching the class structures. Once children are settled and parents are comfortable with the arrangements, we can then review this situation in the autumn term, taking into account the latest advice from Public Health Salford. The only bubble that will be larger than a single class will be in Reception, where children in the whole year group will be able to mix freely.

There will be no social distancing within a bubble, but staff are encouraged to maintain a 2m or 1m+ distance from the children wherever possible. Strict handwashing routines will be followed and lunch will continue to be eaten within the classrooms. Break and lunch time arrangements will be staggered to ensure that bubbles are kept apart wherever possible. We are also required to stagger drop-off and collection times to ensure social distancing is maintained between adults and bubbles each morning and evening (see below).

Drop-off and Collection Arrangements

This presents the biggest challenge for reopening and I need the full support of all of our families for this to work safely. We have one of the most challenging school sites in Salford, but if we all work together and adhere closely to these times, we should be able to find a solution. The school day times are as follows:

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
Years 5 and 6	8:30am – 8:40am	3:00pm
Years 3 and 4	8:40am – 8:45am	3:05pm
Year 1 and 2	8:45am – 8:50am	3:10pm
Nursery and Reception	8:55am	3:20pm

- The main gate will remain locked at all times. Staff will open it, for the relevant year, at the times shown in the table.
- Only parents waiting to drop-off siblings in other year groups can remain in the playground in the morning.
- The gate will remain locked in the evening, and opened at each handover time for the relevant parents.
- The second set of vehicular gates (in the corner) will be used to exit the playground once your child has been collected.
- **The approach to either set of gates must not be used as a drop-off point from cars. THIS INCLUDES BLUE BADGE HOLDERS.** For many years, we have opened the gates to ensure that children are kept away from the road, but we can no longer do this. If people continue to mount the kerb and park on double yellow lines, it risks the safety of both children and adults. **Please keep hold of your children and be very cautious when leaving by the main vehicular gate. There is no barrier on the pavement to protect pedestrians.**

This whole system will fail if parents arrive too early or late. We know how challenging this can be, but we do not want to create queues either inside or outside of the premises. Please leave the playground once you have collected your children and ensure that they remain with you at all times.

Class Structures and Entry/Exit Points

In September, we welcome Mr. Keane and Miss Sharrock to our teaching staff. They will be teaching in Y4 and Y1 respectively. Miss Cheetham continues to be on maternity leave following the birth of her first child, Lily. Congratulations to Miss Cheetham at this very special time. Miss Moore is expected to begin a period of maternity leave in the autumn term so will not be allocated to a class full time for September.

Class	Teacher	Entry Point	Exit Point
Nursery	Mrs Flynn/Mrs Evans	Nursery Gate	Nursery Gate
Reception Class 1A	Mrs Clarke	Hall doors (Right)	Hall doors (Right)
Reception Class 2	Miss Guest	Hall doors (left)	Hall doors (left)
Year 1, Class 3	Miss McNamara	Rear Door (Side of Parish Centre)	Side of parish centre
Year 1, Class 4	Miss Sharrock	Rear Door (Side of Parish Centre)	Side of parish centre
Year 2, Class 5	Mrs Welsh	Main Front Entrance	In front of Hall
Year 2, Class 6	Miss Ryman	Main Front Entrance	In front of Nursery

Year 3, Class 7	Miss Kildunne	Main Front Entrance	In front of Hall
Year 3/4 Class 8	Miss Lavelle	Main Front Entrance	In front of Main entrance
Year 4 Class 9	Mr. Keane	Rear Door (Side of Parish Centre)	In front of Nursery
Year 5, Class 10	Mrs Moore	Rear Door (Side of Parish Centre)	In front of Nursery
Year 5, Class 11	Mr. Taylor	Rear Door (Side of Parish Centre)	In front of Nursery
Year 6, Class 12	Mr. Cooper	Main Front Entrance	In front of main entrance
Year 6, Class 13	Mr. Marshall	Main Front Entrance	In front of Hall

You will receive an email, later today, confirming which of the above classes your child has been allocated to. Your child's current class teacher will send this.

- **There is no streaming or setting in any class.**
- Mathematics will continue to be taught in single age year groups.
- Twins will be taught in the same class due to the 'bubble' principle.
- Changes to the allocated classes cannot be made. Please reassure your child if they are apprehensive, we are confident that all children will continue to thrive when they return to school.
- Each class (with the exception of Reception) will initially operate as a separate bubble.

Managing Suspected Cases of Covid-19

A new risk assessment will be completed over the summer which takes into account the increased numbers of pupils on site each day. All updates to guidance will be published on our school website. In the event that a child or adult tests positive for Covid-19, the following will occur:

- The child/adult's bubble will self-isolate for 14 days.
- Any sibling of the child who has tested positive will also self-isolate, but the sibling's bubble will not automatically be closed unless they subsequently test positive.
- If your child's bubble closes but they are not the one who has tested positive, any siblings may continue to attend school.
- If school instructs for a test to be carried out on your child, proof of a negative outcome must be seen before your child can return to school.

Adjusting to the new 'normal'

It is vital that all children are able to return to school in September. It is also important that we establish them all in a routine as quickly as possible. I am aware of the trauma that many have experienced during this pandemic, but know that our staff will be there to provide the support that they need. The children who have returned in June, have settled quickly because clear structures and routines were established from day one. We intend to follow the same approach when opening the school fully in September. We therefore ask that:

- The uniform policy is fully adhered to, including sensible shoes and hairstyles
- That children arrive at school on time and prepared to learn

- That you continue to support us (as you always have done) with homework and by regularly listening to your child read.
- That all absences are reported to the office by 9:00am and that any holiday requests are made to the Headteacher via the school office
- That you continue to support the school in reinforcing key messages relating to high standards of behaviour, attitude to work and respect of others.

Home Learning

There is a real risk that your child's education may well be punctuated by periods of closure caused by local, regional or national outbreaks of the virus. We will have plans in place for such eventualities and will work with parents to ensure that the transition between school-based and home-based learning is as smooth as possible. We will outline our approach to you in September and give parents an opportunity to comment on the arrangements before finalising the policy.

Other Key Information

- From September, children will be able to bring book bags into school (Y6 may bring their own bag into school) and take reading books home.
- All orders of uniform need to be placed via the Touchline website only and delivered to home addresses. If you have already placed orders to come to school, please do not worry, the office will arrange a collection time for you. <http://www.touchline-embroidery.net/st-philips-rc-primary-salford/>
- If you are planning on travelling abroad over the summer to one of the destinations currently restricted by the UK government, please ensure that 14 day quarantine rules are followed and do not return your child to school before the 14 day period is over.
- No before or after school clubs will be provided during the first few weeks of the new term.

This has been a challenging time for the whole school and parish community. However, we have successfully worked together to limit the impact that this pandemic has had on our children. The partnership between home and school has never been stronger and I am so proud of everything that we have collectively achieved. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Best wishes

J. Barrett

Headteacher