



ST GREGORY'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you have all enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer break and that your children are looking forward to their return to school on Monday 6th September. I write with some updated information about the return to school and the procedures that we will be putting in place as we move into Step 4 of the Government's response.

Whilst many of the previous measures that we put in place are no longer statutory, we will be maintaining many of our control measures in an attempt to minimise disruption and keep the spread of potential Covid-19 cases to a minimum. These safety measures include:

- **Ensuring good hygiene for everyone**
 - **Hand hygiene** – We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
 - **Respiratory hygiene** - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.
- **Maintaining enhanced cleaning regimes** - regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
- **Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated** - Opening external windows to improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors to assist with creating airflow. We will of course balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature for the children to learn in.
- **Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19** - When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test they should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19

Bubble Closures – Under the current guidance, we will no longer be required to send home a whole class of children to isolate if one individual in the class tests positive. Instead, that individual would be asked to isolate at home. Any close contacts of that individual will then be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School,
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Tel: 0121 4292609
www.st-gregorys.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mr T Boodell

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close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

School Day Timings

We will be reverting back to our original school day timings but making some adaptations to encourage a natural staggered start to the day.

Start of day timings

Registration will run from 8.50-9.05am each day and children can arrive at anytime between these times.

The doors to school will open at 8.50am and school staff will come down at this time to collect any children who are already on site and waiting outside their allocated entrance. External doors will remain open until 9.05am and children can enter through their classroom door or allocated entrance and make their way to class at any time from 8.50am onwards. We hope that this will encourage a natural, gradual start to the day and will mean that children can arrive from any time between 8.50 and 9.05am. At 9.05am, the external doors to school will be closed and any arrivals after this point must report to the school office.

Allocated entrances are as follows:

Pre-school and Reception: Pre-School and Reception entrance in small playground.

Year 1: Year 1 classroom door – Large Playground

Year 2: Year 2 classroom door – Large Playground

Year 3 : Entrance in Large Playground – Near to Year 2 classroom door

Year 4, 5 and 6: Entrance in Small Playground – EYFS/Wigorn Road playground

*** Please note – There is no longer a requirement to only enter and exit the school grounds through a specific entrance.**

End of day timings

The school day ends officially at 3.25pm (3.00pm for children in Pre-School). Parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are encouraged to arrive from 3.15pm wherever possible and children will be dismissed from their classroom doors as soon as possible to create a naturally staggered end to the school day.

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All children will be collected from their allocated collection point unless booked into After-School Club.

Allocated collection points are as follows:

Pre-school and Reception: Pre-School and Reception doors in small playground.

Please observe social distancing where possible in the EYFS playground and your children will be dismissed as quickly as possible. Please leave the school grounds quickly after collecting your children.

*Staff will be on hand every day during the first week to guide you in where to stand at morning drop off and for afternoon collection.

Year 1: Year 1 classroom door – Large Playground - Please observe social distancing where possible in the playground and your children will be dismissed as quickly as possible. Please leave the school grounds quickly after collecting your children.

*Staff will be on hand every day during the first week to guide you in where to stand at morning drop off and for afternoon collection.

Year 2: Year 2 classroom door – Large Playground - Please observe social distancing where possible in the playground and your children will be dismissed as quickly as possible. Please leave the school grounds quickly after collecting your children.

*Staff will be on hand every day during the first week to guide you in where to stand at morning drop off and for afternoon collection.

Year 3: Year 3 sign in Large Playground – Near to Sports Arena. Please observe social distancing where possible in the playground and your children will be dismissed as quickly as possible. Please leave the school grounds quickly after collecting your children.

*Staff will be on hand every day during the first week to guide you in where to stand at morning drop off and for afternoon collection.

Year 4, 5 and 6: Small Playground (EYFS/Wigorn Road playground). Please observe social distancing where possible in the playground and your children will be dismissed as quickly as possible. Please leave the school grounds quickly after collecting your children.

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*Staff will be on hand every day during the first week to guide you in where to stand at morning drop off and for afternoon collection.

Masks on the school grounds/ Social distancing

The wearing of masks on the school grounds in outdoor areas will no longer be mandatory but please continue to wear one if you would feel more comfortable doing so.

We would also ask that wherever possible, you continue to practise social distancing on the school grounds and leave the school site swiftly after dropping off or collecting your children.

It is important to remember that this virus has not disappeared completely and in continuing to make small adjustments to our normal routines we can attempt to minimise disruption during the upcoming year.

Uniform – Children are expected to wear full school uniform to school each day apart from their PE day on which they will wear their PE kit to school – Summer uniform is permitted until the end of October.

P.E Kit – On days that children take part in P.E they will be asked to wear their PE kit to school for the day (Red shorts or blue/black joggers, white t-shirt, school jumper or cardigan and trainers/pumps. On colder days, children can wear black or navy blue jogging bottoms instead of shorts). No PE lessons will take place in the first week back and PE days will then be communicated with parents for the second week of term.

Children's Belongings

We ask that during the autumn term children only bring the following items to school:

- One School Bag containing:
 - Lunch Box (if not having a school lunch)
 - Filled water bottle (to be taken home at the end of each day)
 - Reading book and reading diary – kept in school bag
 - Pencil Case with pens and felts etc – if desired, not essential
- Waterproof Coat – Clearly labelled with child's name

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Please also ensure that water bottles, lunch boxes and all items of clothing, in particular jumpers, cardigans and coats, are clearly marked with your child's name.

Whole School Assemblies/Parent Meetings etc.

Whilst the updated DfE guidance does allow for whole school assemblies and increased mixing at break and lunch times, we will be keeping some of our safety measures in place during the autumn term. Assemblies and prayer services will be limited to Key Stage groups (EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) and some staggering of break times and lunch times will still take place.

We hope to hold a face to face 'Meet the Teacher' Parents Evening on Tuesday 14th September at 5.30pm. This will be limited to one parent only and masks should be worn in the classroom. If you are unable to attend, or would feel uncomfortable in doing so, all information shared on the night will also be emailed out to you directly. (This date will be confirmed and more details given during the first week of term)

I am also attaching our term dates and uniform expectations so you have these to hand for the new school year. We will communicate PE days to you as soon as our new timetable is up and running and children can still come into school wearing their PE kits on their PE day until further notice.

Enjoy the final few days of your summer breaks and we will look forward to seeing all of your wonderful children back at school on Monday 6th September.

Best wishes and God bless,

Mr T Boodell
Principal

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School Term Dates 2021/2022

Autumn term 2021

- **Thursday 2nd September 2021: Training Day - School closed to pupils**
- **Friday 3rd September: Training Day - School closed to pupils**
- Monday 6th September: Start of term – School opens to all pupils
- **Friday 8th October: Training Day- School closed to pupils**
- Friday 22nd October: Break up for Half Term Holiday
- **Half-term holiday: Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021**
- Monday 1st November: School opens
- Term ends: Friday 17 December 2021
- **Christmas holiday: Monday 20 December 2021 to Monday 3 January 2022**

Spring term 2022

- Term starts: Tuesday 4 January 2022
- **Half-term holiday: Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022**
- Monday 28th February: School opens
- Term ends: Friday 8th April 2022
- **Easter Holiday: Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April 2022**

Summer term 2022

- Term starts: Monday 25th April 2022
- Monday 2nd May: May Day Bank Holiday -school closed to pupils
- **Friday 27th May: Training Day- School closed to pupils**
- **Half-term holiday: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022**
- Monday 6th June: School opens
- **Friday 24th June: Training Day- School closed to pupils**
- Term ends: Friday 22 July 2022
- **Summer holiday starts: Monday 25th July 2022**

Note: * School is used as a polling station for local and general elections so will also be closed to pupils in the event of these elections taking place in 2022

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School Uniform

Please find below the expectations for school uniform which should be worn every day other than charity/fundraising days, theme days and your child's birthday.

Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with your child's name. This greatly helps us when reuniting lost jumpers, cardigans, pumps etc. with their owners.

*** Important Note – We have very recently redesigned our school badge but most suppliers are still stocking jumpers and cardigans with the old badge design. It is fine to purchase and wear these items and many children will continue to do so during this transition period.**

Reception & Pre-School

Winter (Start of November- End of March)

- Boys - grey school uniform trousers
- Girls - grey school uniform pinafore, skirt or trousers
- White or light blue polo shirt (no tie is required)
- Burgundy V-neck jumper or cardigan (Embroidered school badge preferable)
- Sensible black shoes

Summer (Start of April – End of October)

- Boys - grey shorts or trousers
- Girls - grey skirts/pinafore or pink & white gingham summer dress
- White or light blue polo shirt (no tie required)
- Burgundy V-neck jumper or cardigan (Embroidered school badge preferable)
- Sensible black shoes

When your children enters Year 1 the uniform expectations change slightly – see below

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Winter (Start of November- End of March)

- School tie
- White or light blue school shirt
- Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan (Embroidered school badge preferable)
- Boys - grey school uniform trousers
- Girls - grey school uniform pinafore, skirt or trousers
- Sensible black shoes

Summer (Start of April – End of October)

- White or light blue polo shirt
- Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan (Embroidered school badge preferable)
- Boys - grey school uniform trousers/shorts
- Girls - grey school pinafore, skirt, trousers or pink & white gingham dress
- Sensible black shoes



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Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with your child's name. This greatly helps us when reuniting lost jumpers, cardigans, pumps etc. with their owners.

Footwear

Sensible black school shoes must be worn in school.

White or dark socks/tights should also be worn. Any footwear that comes over the ankle is classed as a boot and should not be worn in school. If children wear boots to school in the winter or due to bad weather they must change to shoes in school.

Physical Education

Trainers or Black Pumps

Red shorts

Plain White round neck T-shirt

Plain black or navy blue joggers are also permitted in colder weather

Jewellery

As a safety precaution and to prevent accidents the wearing of jewellery, including earrings, is not allowed. If parents wish to have their child's ears pierced this should be done at the start of the summer holiday. Children may wear watches, which must be removed for P.E. and school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to these items.

Hair Styles and Nail Varnish

Hairstyles must be smart and neat. Hair shaving and sculpting (eg. Tramlines and other designs) are not allowed. Use of gels or styling products should be minimal. For safety reasons all long hair (boys and girls) must be tied back at all times. Highlights, dyeing and colouring of hair is not allowed. Nail Varnish and other make up is not permitted.

School Uniform Suppliers - Our school uniform is available from:

- Clive Mark Schoolwear. 4-5 Three Shires Oak Road, Smethwick, B67 5AX. 0121 429 4244 www.clivemark.co.uk (15% off leaflet included in Welcome Pack)
- ACE Embroidery Online <https://stgregorys.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue>
- Ties are available to buy directly from school via the School Gateway App
- All the major local supermarkets also stock many of the items listed above. There is no expectation that children will wear polo shirts or t-shirts with the school badge embroidery – A plain white or light blue supermarket Polo shirt or white round neck PE T-shirt is absolutely fine.

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