



St Barnabas CE Primary School

Preparing for a positive future,
achieved through faith

24 February 2021

Dear Parents and families,

I am absolutely delighted that all pupils will be returning to school on 8th March and we can resume some form of normality.

From the initial lockdown in March 2020 until now, we have had very strict control measures in place to minimise the spread of the virus. These measures have been extremely successful and will remain strictly in place when all pupils return in March.

This letter contains important information about these measures. I apologise for its length, but it is really important that you **read it and follow the guidance to keep everyone safe.**

Will attendance at school be compulsory from 8th March?

Yes, attendance at school will be compulsory from 8th March and all children, including those of critical workers will be expected to attend for the full school day.

What will happen at the start and the end of the day?

Start and finish times will still be staggered to reduce the number of people on the playground at any one time. Times will be staggered by family name:

Family Name	Drop Off	Collection
A – H	8:40	3:00
I – P	8:50	3:10
Q - Z	8:55	3:15

All children should be dropped off at their classroom door (except for Y6 who will enter through the hall doors.) **Please stick to your allocated time to minimise the number of people on the playground at any one time.**

Children should only be accompanied onto the school site by 1 adult. Please wait outside the classroom at a distance from others until the teacher calls your child in.

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Social distancing must be observed at all times. If you need to speak to your child's teacher this must be done via telephone or ClassDojo.

Class Bubbles

As far as possible the children will be in their class bubble for lessons and will remain with their class bubble at all times.

Measures within the classroom

Children will be seated side by side, facing forwards where possible. Doors and windows will be kept open wherever possible to improve ventilation. All tables and resources will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and children will be required to wash or sanitise their hands regularly.

Measures elsewhere

It is recommended that large gatherings of more than one group do not take place, therefore assemblies will be held in classrooms. Whole school assemblies will take place via Microsoft Teams.

Playtimes and Lunch time

Initially, all pupils will eat in their classroom. For children who have a school meal, hot options will still be served, including jacket potatoes, warm paninis and pasta, along with cold options. Dinner menus are available on the website. **Bagels are available free of charge before school for all children** and toast will still be available for morning snack for Y1 to Y6. Please purchase via ParentPay.

Water Bottles

It is imperative that you send your child to school with a filled water bottle. Juice or flavoured water are **not allowed**.

Handwashing

At the start and end of each day, pupils will be expected to wash their hands / use hand sanitiser. Handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day and at key times, especially before and after breaks, lunch times and PE lessons.

Uniform

Full uniform must be worn. This includes school shoes **NOT** trainers. If you need support with uniform/school shoes, please contact Mrs Fisher.

On days when children have PE, they should come to school in their PE kit. PE kits should include the school logo PE top and shorts, black or navy joggers or leggings and a school sweatshirt or cardigan. Older children can bring a spare polo shirt to change into after PE if they wish to. PE will take place outdoors where possible. Your child's classteacher will you inform you about PE days.

Can my child attend breakfast and link club?

Yes, breakfast and link club will be running every day. Please pay for sessions via ParentPay if you wish to use these services. We will try to keep children in the same bubble they are in during the day, as far as is possible.

When does my child need to stay at home?

Children must not come to school if:

- They have one or more COVID-19 symptoms.
- A member of their household, support bubble or childcare bubble (if they have one) has symptoms.
- They are required to quarantine, having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area.
- They have had a positive test.

What will happen if my child develops symptoms whilst they are at school?

- If your child begins to show any of the following symptoms during the day: **high temperature, persistent cough, loss of smell or taste**, they will be taken to the medical room and parents called to take them home.
- Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.
- If a child tests positive they should self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms/date of their test if they do not have any symptoms but have a positive test.
- If a child tests negative, if they no longer feel unwell and no longer have symptoms, they can return to school.

I understand that you may be feeling anxious about all children returning to school – if so please contact school and I will be happy to meet with you to discuss our health and safety measures in more detail.

I am aware that there is a lot of information to digest in this letter, but it is very important that you read and follow the guidance to keep us all safe. Before I sign off, I'd like to say thank you for all the messages of support and positivity. It really does make a difference and keeps us smiling. Our St Barnabas children and families are amazing and I am really looking forward to welcoming you all back in March.

If you have any queries about the information above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Miss J Hodgkinson
Headteacher