

Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB

School Reopening: Key Information for Parents of Reception Children

Dear Parents

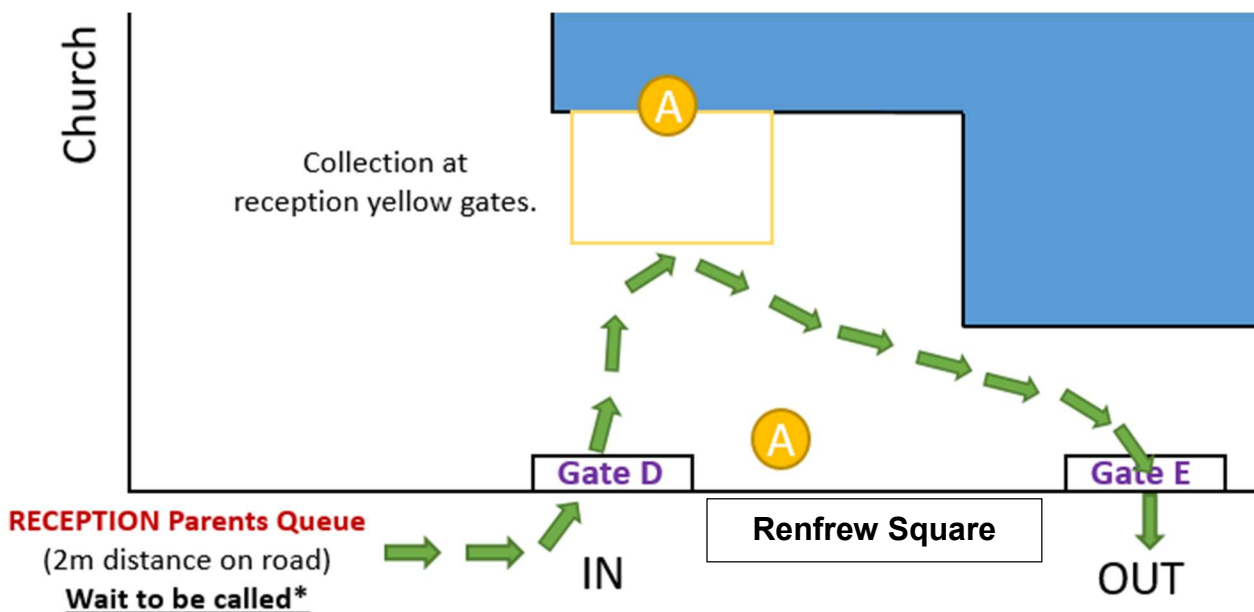
School will reopen on **Monday 8th June to children in our Reception class**. We have been busy planning for the children's return, and need to share some important information with you. **All the decisions we have had to make are the result of government guidance**. We wish to give you as much information as we can in order for you to be able to make an informed decision as to whether you will be sending your child to school.

Hours we will be open:

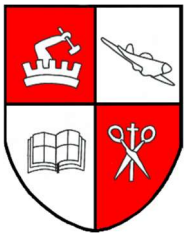
As explained in a previous letter, we think it is best for your child, in this uncertain time, to be in their own classroom and with adults they are familiar with. We cannot guarantee that they will be with their class teacher, but it will be with someone they know and have worked with before. In order to do this, we can only offer a part-time place for your child. This will either be in the **morning between 9.00am – 11.30am**, or in the **afternoon between 12.30am – 3.00pm**. In the middle of the day we will have a thorough clean of the room ready for the next 'bubble'. **School will be closed to most pupils on Fridays**, for deep cleaning and staff planning time. We will remain open to children whose parents are keyworkers or classed as vulnerable.

Drop off and Collection:

Parents will be asked to queue **outside the gate (Gate D) on Renfrew Square before** the start time of your session. Parents should maintain a **strict 2m distance** from each other and use the signs on the fence to help. A member of staff will call you through and you can walk your child to the yellow Reception gates and drop your child off. You must then **exit via the main entrance gate (Gate E)**. This will be a **one way system**. If you turn up late we cannot guarantee entry as we have other year groups to safely get into school.



The arrangements for pick up will be the same.



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St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School and Nursery
Headteacher: Mr A Crehan



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Bubbles:

Your child will be placed into a bubble. We cannot accommodate requests for which bubble they attend. We will choose the pupils based on the way we feel we can help them best educationally. We will let you know your bubble when you confirm your place. This will be a small group, up to a maximum of 15 children, and will contain 2 adults. Your child will remain in that bubble for their entire time in school. They will work together, have break times together and will not mix with other bubbles.

Social distancing:

Your child is very young, and it is against their nature to socially distance. However, for their safety and ours, we will be trying our hardest to ensure the children avoid contact as much as possible. We have made changes to our classrooms so that they have as much space as possible.



As you can see, a lot of the equipment has had to be stored away, and children will have designated spots to sit on during lessons to maintain a distance. Our lovely displays were sadly taken down during our deep clean of the school and will remain so to discourage children touching them.

Behaviour:

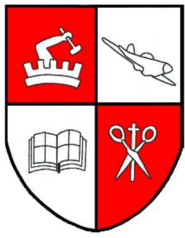
We have had to make some changes to our behaviour policy. As your child has to stay in their bubble, if they persistently misbehave, or purposely cough, spit or break social distance, we will ask you to come and collect your child. If they continue to do this having already been sent home, they will lose their place at school for this period of time. I am confident that this will not happen at St Gerard's.

Uniform:

We ask that your child wears their summer uniform or their PE kit each day. The emphasis will be on good hygiene and reducing the risk of passing on germs to others, so it is important that they **wear clean clothes each day**.

Lunches:

We will not be providing hot dinners. If they attend in the morning bubble, they will be able to take a lunch home with them at 11.30am. If they attend in the afternoon bubble, they will be provided with lunch and will eat it in their classroom at 12.30pm.



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Bringing items to and from school:

The only items your child will be allowed to bring into school is a water bottle and coat if required. Your child will not be allowed to take anything away from the school site, this will include reading books and homework.

Curriculum:

Your child will not be following the Statutory National Curriculum for their age. We will spend a lot of time learning about how to stay safe in a pandemic, and why life has changed so much over the past few months. Children will pray together and we will talk about our feelings and worries at this time. There will also be opportunities for some Phonics, English and Mathematics. Home learning will still be available on our website.

First Aid/Medical issues:

If your child becomes unwell or hurts themselves they will be looked after as we would normally. We have arrangements in school for this, but the difference will be that those administering first aid will be wearing PPE, particularly if your child becomes unwell. You could prepare your child for this, by showing them what the masks look like, and talking to them about why adults will have them on.

Toilets:

Your child will be able to go to the toilet when they need to, as they normally would. We will be teaching the children how to wash their hands properly, and we will ask them to let us know when they are going to the toilet, so that an adult can be ready to ensure they wash their hands correctly afterwards.

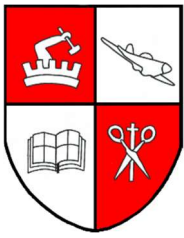
Covid-19 Symptoms:

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they **SHOULD NOT COME INTO SCHOOL**. If this happens during the school day they **WILL BE SENT HOME**, and the entire household must self-isolate for 14 days. You should then arrange to have a test to see if your child has COVID-19. If they have a negative result, you must show us this before your child can return to school. If they have a positive result you should notify us as soon as possible and then the entire bubble will be sent home to isolate. **Parents of children within the bubble will be notified if we send any child home with symptoms. The government guidance advises us that they can continue to come to school whilst we wait for a result.** We are not medical professionals and cannot determine the difference between these symptoms and other illnesses. Any symptom from above will be treated as potentially COVID-19 until proven otherwise by a negative test or after a 14 day isolation period.

Parent Survey:

After reading this document you should fill in the survey to 'book' your child's place at school. You need to indicate either 'Yes' or 'No' to confirm your place for the following week. If you answer 'Yes' on the survey you will have your place for the entire term - we will then contact you with your AM or PM bubble information. If you enter 'No', you will not be able to send your child into school for the following week which mean that you **cannot send your child to school without prior arrangement**. Any child without a confirmed place will not be permitted to enter the school that week. This survey process will continue weekly with the same options. If you do not respond, we will presume you are not taking your place.

You must feel comfortable with your decision, and by agreeing to send your child to school you will need to be supportive of these new measures. If you still have questions about the return to school, please see the



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'Frequently Asked Questions' letter. **Everything we do is directed by the government**, these measures are designed to keep our whole community safe. We will support your decision either way, knowing you are doing what you feel is right for your child and your whole family.

I look forward to your response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Crehan'.

A Crehan
Headteacher