

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



Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB

4th March 2021

Back to School – March 8th 2021

Dear Parents

As I am sure you are aware, Boris Johnson has set out a roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions in England. We are delighted that this begins with the **full opening of schools for all pupils from Monday 8th March 2021**, and I am writing to you to explain the arrangements for this.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

Coronavirus has not gone away, and we need to all be vigilant to keep our community safe, and our children in school. **We can only do this with your support.**

If your child, or anyone in their household is showing a symptom of
Coronavirus (Covid-19) - **DO NOT send them to school.**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child develops any of these symptoms in school they will be sent home and you will need to arrange for them to be tested. You will need to inform us of the outcome of the test as soon as possible.

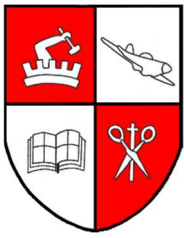
Bubbles and isolating

Your child will be in a 'bubble' for the majority of the day and we are taking all the precautions we can to ensure they do not mix. However, we may have a situation when a member of staff or a child tests positive. If this happens then the bubble will close and your child will need to isolate. This means that your child must stay at home and not go out, whether they are experiencing symptoms or not. They must also stay home regardless of whether they have had a negative test. The rest of the family does not need to isolate unless your child develops symptoms.

Anyone who is notified that they are a contact of someone who has tested positive and is advised to self-isolate has a legal duty to self-isolate. Failure to comply may result in a fine, starting from £1,000. Please note that notification from school is the same as notification through NHS Track and Trace. We would therefore not expect to see isolating children picking up or dropping off siblings.

Uniform

Children are expected to wear **full school winter uniform from March until the start of the Summer Term**. They will need to have their **PE kits in school** ready for their PE lessons. We do not expect them to wear



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any jewellery or have hairstyles that are not part of our normal school policy. Trainers will not be permitted. If you are unsure of any items, please see our prospectus on the school website. Children will need their book bags as they will receive homework and reading books as normal.

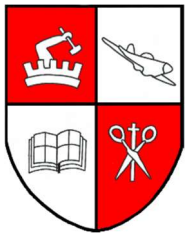
Drop off & Collection

Drop off will be between 8.40am – 9.00am. At 8.40am all gates on our site will be open and a member of staff will be on duty. **You can drop your child off at any gate** and they will **make their own way** into the classrooms. There will be lots of adults to direct the children and teachers will be waiting for them in class with a morning task. **In the mornings, parents will not be allowed on site**, and in order to avoid congestion, **the staff on gates will not be taking messages** nor will they take forgotten items such as water bottles and book bags. **Please ensure your child has everything they need before entering the gates.**

Collection times will be staggered to reduce congestion. We will allow parents to congregate, at a social distance, on the main playground. **Only one adult per family will be allowed to come onto the school site.** We will mark an area for you and ask that you do not come close to the doors. Teachers will dismiss children from specific exits which will be labelled. **The children will come to you.** The table below shows where they will be dismissed from to help you decide where to wait. Please aim to collect your children at these times. Do not come too early or late as this will cause unnecessary congestion.

Year Group	Time	Exit Location
Nursery	3.00pm	Nursery main entrance
Reception	3.05pm	Reception Playground (Yellow Gates)
Year 1	3.05pm	Exit A (KS2 doors)
Year 2	3.05pm	Exit C (KS1 doors)
Year 3	3.10pm	Exit B (Main entrance)
Year 4	3.10pm	Exit A (KS2 Doors)
Year 5	3.15pm	Exit A (KS2 Doors)
Year 6	3.15pm	Exit B (Main Entrance)





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Once you have collected your child, we ask you to leave the site as quickly as possible, **supervising your children at all times**. If you have children in multiple classes you will have to wait in the parent area, we cannot arrange for the children to come out together. Please **do not let children play** as there will not be room and we must social distance. **Please dress for the weather**, you will not be able to congregate under the covers by the doors. If you need to speak to a member of staff after school, please call the school office when you get home. **We cannot allow adults in the building without making an appointment.**

Face Masks

The Government has stated that primary aged children **do not** need to wear face coverings. Research has shown they could actually increase the risk of infection for children and obstruct their learning. Please do not send your child to school with a face covering. **We do require all adults to wear face masks on the school site, so please have one ready when collecting your child.**

Lunches

School dinners will be available from the kitchen. If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6, and would like a school dinner, you will need to send the money into school with them, parents **cannot** come to the school office. Please send the correct money, in a clearly-labelled envelope. The school dinner amount for this year is £12 a week. If your child normally has a packed lunch, they can bring this in as normal. Children can bring a clean water bottle each day.

Absences from school

If your child is going to be absent from school **for any reason**, please contact the school office **before 9.30am by telephone, by leaving a voicemail or by email**. This is for safeguarding reasons – we must account for all the children in our school daily. If we do not hear from you and your child is absent, we have a statutory duty to follow this up, which will involve calling your emergency contacts and potentially external agencies.

In order to return to school safely, we will require your full support and patience. All the changes we have made are a direct response to government guidance to try and make school as safe a place as we can for all of our families and staff. I know that I can rely on your support, patience and cooperation during the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about your child's return to school, please email enquiry@stgerard.bham.sch.uk and we will try and answer any of your concerns.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March 2021.

A Crehan
Headteacher