



1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): letter to parents on full opening from 8 March

### RE: Full opening arrangements from 8 March

Dear parents,

As you will likely be aware, the Prime Minister has announced that all school-age pupils will return to full-time on-site provision from 8 March. We would like to take this opportunity to outline our arrangements for full opening prior to this date.

All pupils will be expected to attend on-site provision from 8th March, with the exception of pupils following public health advice, e.g. if they are required to self-isolate or shield.

### Attendance

From 8 March, attendance is mandatory for all pupils, and the usual rules for attendance apply, e.g. sanctions could be issued in the case of non-attendance.

If your child is following public health advice, e.g. they are shielding or have coronavirus, you will not be penalised for any non-attendance. Pupils not attending for these reasons will continue to receive remote education, where appropriate.

If your child is required to attend the school site but you are anxious or concerned, please get in touch with us on 01946 66356 or email [head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk), and we can discuss your worries in more detail and provide any reassurance you need.

### Protective measures

We want to reassure you that the school has implemented a number of protective measures to keep your child safe upon their return to the school site. We have updated our risk assessment to reflect any changes in circumstances pertaining to the full return of pupils, and will communicate any future changes to you as and when we make them. You can request a copy of our risk assessment from the school office on 01946 66356.

In order to assist us in minimising risk of infection, please ensure your child is only bringing essential items to the school site each day, including:

- Lunch boxes
- Hats and coats
- Books
- Stationery
- Small school bags (only if necessary) – must be able to fit in child's locker

Our Infection Control Policy and Social Distancing Policy will continue to be followed at all times.

We will be operating staggered start and finish times to minimise any unnecessary contact between parents and pupil groups. We will implement the following structure each day:

Year group	Start time	Finish time
Group 1	<u>8.15 -8.35</u>	<u>3.00-3.10</u>
Group 2	<u>8.40- 9.00</u>	<u>3.15-3.25</u>

**You will be sent a text message to inform you of your child's group. Please keep to your allocated time to prevent congestion at the school gates.**

All children should come into school via the green gates on the playground. School staff will be there to welcome them and direct them to the correct classroom. **We ask that all parents maintain social distancing at all times when bringing or collecting children from school.**

Parents are advised that only **one** parent should bring the child/ren to school where children cannot attend unaccompanied. Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 must be dropped off and collected from school by an adult. **Adults must wear a face covering whilst on the school playground, unless medically exempt.**

### **Class Bubbles**

To reduce the number of contacts between children and staff we will work in class bubbles. Class bubbles will not mix with other class bubbles. For younger children, those with complex needs the emphasis will be on separating groups (class bubbles), and for older children it will be on social distancing. All children will be encouraged to social distance within the bubbles.

It is likely that adverse experiences and / or the lack of routine of regular attendance and classroom discipline may mean that some children may find coming back to school a little bit difficult. We will work with those children who may struggle to re-engage in school and are at risk of being absent and/or persistently disruptive. We will provide support to help them reintegrate back into school life.

### **Uniform and P.E. Kits**

Children are expected to wear full school uniform and come to school in their outdoor PE kits on the days they have PE. Teachers will put a note on Seesaw & Tapestry to let you know which days your child has PE. Children may also bring an additional jacket / jumper to school as classrooms need to be well ventilated so doors and windows will be open during the day and the school may feel colder than normal.

We are extremely grateful for all the support and your engagement in remote learning and we are looking forward to the children returning to school.

Take care,  
*S. Starkie*