



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

High Road, Kells, Whitehaven, Cumbria. CA28 9PG

Tel: 01946 66356 Fax: 01946 696013

e-mail: admin@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk



Letter to parents regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) measures from September

RE: Changes to coronavirus (COVID-19) measures from September

Dear parents,

We want to thank you for supporting the school's coronavirus measures and for working with us through what has been a challenging time for everyone. We are incredibly grateful for your participation and understanding.

In line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown, many control measures ceased to be legal requirements on 19 July. This letter outlines our plans for your child's return to school in the Autumn term – by working together we can keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Testing and self-isolation

The school is no longer responsible for Test and Trace close contact tracing in the Autumn term. This will be taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service, who will inform your child if they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

The school will continue to have a role in working with local health protection teams (HPTs) in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in the school, the NHS will contact the school and a Director of Public Health could advise us to temporarily reintroduce control measures.

If your child receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result, they should self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to confirm if they have coronavirus; whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within two days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test result and your child can return to school, as long as they have not experienced coronavirus symptoms for 48 hours prior to their return.

End of staggered start and pick up times

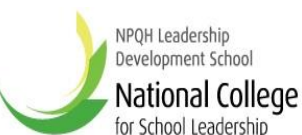
The staggering of start and pick up times for different year groups will no longer be in place from the Autumn term. All pupils will be able to arrive and depart from school at the same time each day without restrictions.

The school gates will be open between 8.15 a.m. and 8.45 a.m. and children will be met on the school gate by a member of staff and escorted to their classroom. There will be no breakfast club provision, in September, but your child may bring a breakfast snack to eat in their classroom between 8.15 and 8.45 a.m.

The school gates will be open at 3.00 p.m. and children should be collected between 3.00 p.m. and 3.15 p.m.

Parents are able to decide their own drop off and collection times (within the above times).

*For those children in nursery who stay for just the morning sessions, they can be collected at 11.55am from the front gate by Mrs. Hillon's Office.



Headteacher: Mrs Susan Starkie B.Ed.
Registered Charity No. 1034949

Mixing and bubbles

'Bubbles' will no longer be implemented within the school. Alongside enabling flexibility in the delivery of curriculum, the lifting of this restriction also allows assemblies and lunches to resume as normal.

Your child will no longer need to adhere to social distancing rules in communal areas and classrooms. Pupils will be able to sit in groups in the classroom and at lunchtime and the need to sit facing forwards will also no longer be in place.

To prepare for the event that cases rise in the local area, the school has created a contingency plan to cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce bubbles for a temporary period in order to reduce mixing between groups.

Cleaning and sanitary procedures

We will put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This will include the regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Classroom resources will also be cleaned regularly.

Frequent and thorough hand washing will be encouraged. We will continue to ensure that your child cleans their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser. We will also continue to help those with complex needs to clean their hands properly.

Remote learning

We will ensure remote education plans are in place in the event your child has to self-isolate. While attendance is mandatory, remote learning will be provided for pupils who are following clinical or government guidance to stay at home, e.g. where they are self-isolating. All pupils who are not physically unwell will be given access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable via Seesaw or Tapestry.

If you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please contact school on 01946 66356 or email head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

S. Starkie



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