

Holy Family News



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a very happy and peaceful Christmas. I apologise for the timing of the letter I completely understand how frustrating this must be for you as parents. Unfortunately, it has been a rapidly changing picture over the weekend. As I'm sure you are aware the situation with COVID19 has taken a turn for the worse. Greater Manchester has been placed in Tier 4 due to rising infection rates, which I know will cause much concern for many. **As the current situation stands school will be open for Nursery, Reception, Year 2,3,4, and 6. Unfortunately, due to staffing shortage I am currently unable to open for Year 1 and Year 5.** Given the current situation in London's hospitals we all need to work together to protect our NHS in Greater Manchester to ensure that everyone who needs medical support can access it. Please rest assured we, as a school, are doing everything possible to minimise the risk to our children, staff and families. Please read the information below carefully, it is extremely important that we work together to ensure that our community is as safe as it possibly can be.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Take care and stay safe. Mrs Booth

How will we keep your child safe?

Prevention:

Points in black are government guidance, points in green is what the school will be doing, the points in red are what parents are required to do.

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school

School will continue to be vigilant around children's health and well-being. If a child is unwell we will contact their parents immediately.

IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL YOU MUST NOT SEND THEM INTO SCHOOL. If your child has a temperature, a new or a continuous cough, or has lost their sense of taste or smell, THEY MUST GET A COVID TEST. If someone in your household is unwell and showing symptoms the person must get a test and the household must isolate until you have received a negative result.

If you are unable to get to a COVID testing site please contact school.

If your child requires CALPOL / Paracetamol, please do not send them into school as this can mask a high temperature. If your child requires this for a medical condition and it has been prescribed by your doctor please contact school and we will work with you to ensure your child's needs are met.



- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

School will continue to ensure that all children wash or sanitise their hands regularly. This will be upon arrival at school, before and after eating, after play time and if they change room. The children will be reminded how to wash their hands correctly and be supervised where appropriate. It is fair to say that the children have mastered this skill and have built handwashing into their daily routine. **Please remind your children about the need for handwashing before they return to school on Monday.**



- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

Children will be taught the importance of good respiratory hygiene, tissue will be available in the classroom but **it would be helpful if you make sure your child has a small packet of tissues for personal use.** The school has also purchased pedal bins to dispose of the tissues.



CATCH IT.



BIN IT.



KILL IT.

- 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach

Staff will continue to regularly clean high touch surfaces such as desks, door handles etc. Toilets will be cleaned at dinnertime and at the end of the school day. High touch areas such as handles and taps will be cleaned regularly. The children from Year 2 upwards will be given their own pencil case and resources.



Please read on... there is more!

5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

From September, the school was been organized into 4 Bubbles (groups). These are EYFS (reception and nursery) KS1 (Years 1&2) Lower KS2 (Years 3&4) and Upper KS2 (Years 5&6). We have since reviewed this to minimise social mixing further. Classes are now kept separate with the exception of reception and nursery which remain as one bubble. Children will stay within their class and not mix with children from other classes to reduce risk. Start and end times will continue to be staggered to minimise contact. **Please ensure that your child arrives at school at the correct time and that only ONE parent collects their child. Given that the new strain of COVID19 is more transmissible I would ask that ALL parents wear a mask when coming onto school grounds. Please note that I am requesting this as some people are asymptomatic and are unaware that they have COVID and that new strain is more transmissible. We want to avoid having to send bubbles home.**

6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Children and staff will not be required to wear face masks in school. If you child uses public transport and needs to dispose of a mask, a bin and hand santiser will be available on arrival to ensure safe removal of the mask.

7) Always keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Windows will be kept open as much as possible as this is known to reduce transmission of the virus. Please rest assured we have recently had the school heating system replaced which is working well in this cold season. We will not let the children become cold while they are working. **Please ensure that your child wears their school jumper and possibly a vest or additional T shirt underneath to allow us to ventilate the room throughout the day.**

A reminder of school start and finish times:

To allow us to get the children into school safely and wash their hands we have had to alter the times of the day. **It is essential that parents get their child to school in the allocated time slot.** If you are late you will have to wait with your child until after the next time slot. **Only one parent must bring their child to school.**

If you have children who have been allocated different time slots, we ask that you arrive at the end of the time slot for your first child to reduce your waiting time.

Each Bubble will have a 15 minute time slot in which to arrive in. **Please note we are now reducing social mixing further and keeping classes separate. Year 4 children enter the school first at 8.35am followed by Year 3. Year 6 children enter at 8.50am followed by Year 5.**



Start of the school day		
Bubble	Start	
EYFS	8.35	8.50
KS1	8.50	9.05
LKS2	8.35	8.50
UKS2	8.50	9.05

Home time		
Bubble	start	End
EYFS	2.55	3.05
KS1	3.05	3.15
LKS2	2.55	3.05
UKS2	3.05	3.15



It is essential that you keep to the times allocated for safety reasons. Please make sure that once you have collected your child you leave the school promptly to allow others to collect their child. Again Mrs Needle and I will be on the gates to support and guide you. **PLEASE WEAR A MASK TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS.**

I understand that these are worrying times for us all. If you have any questions or need help or support please contact us via email: support@holyfamily.oldham.sch.uk

I cannot thank parents enough for how you helped and supported the school and staff over the last year. It is very much appreciated by myself and the staff.

Many Thanks

Mrs Booth