

The Saint Raphael's News

26th August 2020 / 21st Sunday, Year A, Matthew 16

'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.'



Welcome to a new academic year at St Raphael's Catholic Primary School. I hope that you have all had a good summer and are all keeping safe and well.

I felt that it might be helpful to send out a newsletter before school reopens to outline details of the arrangements for the start of the new academic year.

We are all looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school-pupils, parents and carers and have been planning carefully for the arrangements for the new school year.

NEW PUPILS

Welcome to all our new pupils at school in our Nursery and to all the children who are starting in the Reception Class this year.

NEW STAFF

We welcome Miss Georgia Pollitt to St Raphael's. Miss Pollitt will teach Year 5 from September 2020.

We also look forward to welcoming back Miss Alison Sellers as Year 4 teacher during Mrs Lee's maternity leave which began in August.

Staffing arrangements for this academic year are in the table below.

Class	Teachers	TAs
FS1 - Nursery	Mrs S McLeod	Mrs Z Wells
FS2 - Reception	Mrs C Shields and Miss L Wilson	Mrs C Melville-Terry
Y1	Mrs K Neale	Mrs L Blay
Y2	Miss S Anderton	Mrs C Tortoisshell
Y3	Miss C Taylor	Mrs K Stoddard
Y4	Miss A Sellers	Mrs M Rankin
Y5	Miss G Pollitt	Mrs K Stoddard
Y6	Mr D Matthews	Miss L Gavin
Mrs G Southworth Inclusion and Family Liaison Manager Mrs P Reeves will work in KS 1		

Unfortunately, due to current circumstances, we will not be able to hold our usual 'Meet the teacher' sessions. However, the teachers will be posting on Seesaw and Tapestry with introductions and important information. As always Miss Southworth and school staff will be available at the entrance points for any messages you may have.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

We are delighted that our new outdoor classroom on the top field is now constructed. This will be used by all classes as part of the wider curriculum work and will be a great asset to our provision.

UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER WHOLE SCHOOL OPENING

We are really looking forward to having all our pupils back in school in September and all being together again. As you will be aware we are still required to operate 'bubbles' in classes and social distancing where possible in order to minimise risk.

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To maintain this we have staggered start and finish times for year groups and have two entrances and exits for school. The arrangements for this have not changed since the information sent in July but I have included the timings again. All information is available on the school website at www.st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk

Our priority, as always, is the safety of the pupils, parents and staff and we appreciate your help and support throughout this process. The class bubbles will also be maintained during playtimes and lunch time. Our priority will be to ensure that the children settle back into school safely and happily.

We will be constantly reviewing our arrangements for drop off and pick up times and if it is safe to do so we will look at reducing the length of each drop off and pick up window.

All risk assessments and plans have involved Tameside Local Authority, the DfE, St Raphael's Governing Board as well as staff. The current version of the Risk Assessment is published on the school website.

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

If you have been abroad during the summer holidays to a country that is on the Government's list as requiring quarantine on return, please inform the school office and check the quarantine requirements which may be in place in relation to that country.

Latest information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

SEPTEMBER START DATES

In order for school to be ready for full reopening in September, Tameside Local Authority and St Raphael's Governors have agreed that there will be two INSET days at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Therefore, Tuesday, 1st September and Wednesday, 2nd September will be Staff INSET days.

Pupils will then return to school on either Thursday, 3rd September or Friday, 4th September. We are operating a phased return for classes to allow the new procedures to be embedded and to welcome children back to school. Your child's first day back will be as follows;

- Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 only will be in school on Thursday 3rd September
- Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 only will be in school on Friday 4th September.
- EYFS (Nursery & Reception) parents have received a separate letter specifically outlining plans for your children. This is available on the school website.

***** All children will be back in school from Monday 7th September *****

As part of these measures, from September we will have two entrance and exit points into school. One will be the main gate (Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 children) and one will be via the parish hall (EYFS, Year 5 and 6 children) which leads into the EYFS playground. Both are secure and within our fenced area around school. Staff will be present to help guide you and the children to ensure this runs smoothly.

Parish Hall	Main Gate	Drop off	Collection
Rec	1	08:40 - 09:00	14:20 - 14:40
Nursery	2	09:00 - 09:20	14:40 - 15:00
5	3	09:20 - 09:40	15:00 - 15:20
6	4	09:40 - 10:00	15:20

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DROP OFF/COLLECTION TIMES

All children must be accompanied to school by an adult who should remain with them as part of our safeguarding procedures until their child has entered school as per the drop off and collection times stated. Due to the new procedures, children will not have access to the playground before school and we appreciate your support in helping us keep each class bubble separate.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

We have reviewed the before and after school offer for parents. We have considered the impact the staggered drop off and pick up windows have upon working parents and upon families where there are siblings with differing windows. During the Autumn Term we will be offering the options below for before and/or after school care at St Raphael's. The children will have a range of activities and be cared for by St Raphael's staff in the school hall from 8.15am until their class bubble starts. At the end of the day, children will do activities and be cared for from their bubble closing until 4.15pm.

Before School Care, including breakfast opens at 8.15am at £4.00 per day. After School Care, including snack closes at 4.15pm £4.00 per day. Places at each club will be limited to 25 children per day and children will be supervised by at least two members of staff throughout.

If you require more information or a registration form for the Autumn Term please follow the link to the school website at <http://www.st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk/> or contact the school office. Places must be pre-booked on a first come first served basis and club fees must be settled monthly in advance, these will be collected via the SchoolMoney Portal.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

We are aware that some of our pupils have not been in school for some time so you may want to talk to them about the changes that will be in school.

These are the main measures that we are taking at St Raphael's to minimise risk:

- Classes to be in a year group bubble which will remain separate from other class bubbles.
- Staff and parents to adhere to social distancing.
- Pupils in years 2-6 to sit at forward facing desks in classrooms. Younger children will have some areas of continuous provision.
- Staggered start and finish times to allow for social distancing at drop off and pick up.
- Only one parent or carer to drop off pupils to help with social distancing. The school drive has been marked into 2m apart lines to allow parents to social distance. Staff will guide parents up the drive to the main school gate or through the parish hall to where the children will be dropped off and picked up. We ask parents not to come through the school gate.
- Parents asked not to congregate after drop off or before pick up and to maintain social distancing and to help with limited parking.
- Children to remain in the same bubble at all times with minimal mixing during break or lunchtimes.
- Children to have the same teacher or teaching assistant whenever possible, however music teachers and PE coaches will be working in school with different bubbles whilst following sanitising and social distancing measures and adhering to the risk assessment procedures.
- Children encouraged to follow good hygiene practices by promoting the importance of sanitising and handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap regularly.
- As far as possible, separate entry and exit points to classrooms (staff will direct children to the correct entrance).
- Children will all be provided with a pencil case that will remain in school and will contain all the equipment they require. Children will not be permitted to bring in any pencil cases or equipment from home to reduce the risks involved in sharing or moving resources.
- Pupils and staff must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue before they cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away in separate bins provided.

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- The Behaviour Policy has been updated in line with the current situation (see website).
- Additional cleaning will continue throughout the day and week.
- Parents to be informed, and asked to collect their child promptly, if a pupil develops symptoms or are feeling unwell.

Even with all these additional measures in place, we are aware that we can minimise but not completely eradicate risks during the current pandemic.

Due to the constantly changing situation guidance will be reviewed regularly. The carpark in Revive as well as the carpark in front of Church will be available for use although you may prefer to park close to school and then walk up with your child.

WHAT WILL THE CHILDREN NEED TO BRING EACH DAY

- We are asking the children to bring a bottle each day filled with water and with their name clearly shown as water fountains will be unavailable.
- School dinners will be available as normal, or children can bring a packed lunch in a lunch box which will be stored in class groups.
- PE kits are allowed in school and should remain in school until half term.
- Book bags can be used if needed for reading books only. However, rucksacks in Year 5 and 6 will not be necessary in the Autumn term.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM CORONAVIRUS:

Please make sure you are aware of the latest guidance in relation to coronavirus which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. On our return in September we are advised by the educational guidance that any pupils or staff who have symptoms of Covid-19 or are living with someone who does so should not attend school and follow the latest Stay at Home guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. Please notify us to ensure we apply the correct registration codes.

TERM DATES

Please see the revised school term dates on the school website at http://www.st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk/?page_id=107

HOMEWORK

The CGP workbooks which were sent home during the period of school closure will be used from September as homework books. Teachers will be posting on Seesaw and Tapestry the work which is to be completed and work for the EYFS Children. Homework books will not be returned to school each week due to the current situation. There are also links on the school website to sites such as Prodigy, Times Tables Rock Stars, BBC Bitesize and the online reading sites which can all provide useful activities.

SCHOOL MEALS

From 1st September 2020 school meals will be priced at £2.32 per day, Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a free meal each day under the UIFSM initiative. Further information in relation to making payments for School Meals will be sent home early next week.

NURSERY

We look forward to welcoming our pupils to Nursery. Nursery Wraparound and 30 Hours Childcare will start from W/C 7th September 2020. If you are eligible please complete a wraparound registration form or apply to the DFE and have your eligibility code before 31.08.2020. All parents are then asked to complete and sign the parental declarations, these will be done in the first few weeks.

CONTACT WITH SCHOOL

In the first few weeks back, we will be asking you to complete an online data form updating us with any changes of contact details for each child in school, please complete this as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct details for every child in school. This is especially important for the mobile and email addresses we use to contact you via Text, Email, School Money and Parents evening.

UNIFORM FROM SEPTEMBER

We are very proud that the children at St Raphael's always look smart in their uniform. The uniform requirements are;

Winter Uniform - Autumn Term

- Grey Skirt / Pinafore / Trousers.
- Y1-Y6 - Plain Blue Shirt.
- Y1-Y6 - Blue and Yellow Tie - Rip Tape / Clip or Traditional.
- School Branded Blue Jumper / Cardigan
- EYFS - Plain Blue Polo Shirt / School Branded Polo Shirt.

Footwear

- Sensible, closed toe, black footwear only.
- Boots /Trainers /Heels are not allowed.

Jewellery

- Jewellery is not permitted to be worn
- Earrings are not permitted and plasters cannot be worn over earrings

Hair

- Long hair should be tied up
- No extreme hair-styles are allowed eg bleach, tram-lines, highlights, spikes etc
- Please refrain from using excessive hair products

PE Kit - Reception to Year 6

- Indoor - Navy Blue PE Shorts, School Branded Blue PE T-Shirt and Black Pumps.
- Outdoor - Years 1-6 - Navy Tracksuit/Sweatshirt/Jogging Bottoms, School Branded Blue PE T-shirt and Trainers.
- Children also need a school PE bag which is clearly marked with their name.

Details of stockists can be found on the school website

We start this new academic year aware that some things are necessarily different but also that some things remain the same- namely that we are a faith filled community working to care, share and learn together.

I hope that you and your families stay safe and well and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in September.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school.

With best wishes and prayers,

Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)

head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk / 0161 338 4095

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