



ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Huddersfield Road, Millbrook
Stalybridge, SK15 3JL

Tel: 0161 338 4095
Web: www.st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk
Twitter: @straphsRC

Headteacher: Mrs L. Lakner
head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: September Opening of School

I hope that you and your families are safe and well at this time. We are looking forward to all being together again in September. The purpose of this letter is to outline the plans for September. These plans may be subject to change if the Covid situation changes in our area.

We have continued to work on actions and risk assessments that we can implement at St Raphael's to minimise the risks to both pupils and staff. It is important to make clear that any risk assessment and associated actions put into place will be aimed at reducing and minimising risk. For the risk assessment to be effective it is crucial that all staff, children and parents/carers carefully follow the guidance given by school. I am sure you will agree that the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff must remain our absolute priority. The Risk Assessment is published on the school website.

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. These will allow for staff training and preparation of the school. This will mean that 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 trialed, 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 will receive a separate letter specifically outlining transition plans for your children.

Following this, all children will return to school from Monday 7th September; however, we will be continuing to operate staggered drop off and pick up times so that social distancing measures can be followed and bubbles will remain separate.

"May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."

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.

Drop off/Collection Times

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

All children must be accompanied to school by an adult who should remain with them as part of our safeguarding procedures until their bubble opens. 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

In planning for September, and based on the guidance, 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 be cared for from 8.15am until their class bubble starts and will be taken there by a member of staff. Equally, at the end of the day, children will be cared for from their bubble closing until 4.15pm.

Before School Care, including breakfast	Opens at 8.15am	£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.

More information and a registration form for the Autumn Term will follow via email in the next week, 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.

"May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."

Updated guidance from DfE (published July 2nd 2020)

Before your child comes into school please ensure that you have read all guidance below

These are the 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 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.
Thank you for adhering to these as they are an essential part of our Risk Assessment and have ensured the reopening to date has been a success.
- 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. Any messages for school should be communicated prior to drop off via email or phone to prevent congestion at the entrance points.
- 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 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.
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue before they cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away in bins provided.
- 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 are expected 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. Also 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.

["May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."](#)

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, or children can bring a packed lunch.
- PE kits are allowed in school and should remain in classes as usual.
- Book bags can be used if needed; however, rucksacks in Year 5 and 6 will not be necessary in this first half term.

School Uniform

When the children return in September, the usual high expectations for uniform will be in place. The school requires that children come clean and neatly dressed wearing the following winter uniform:

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

For footwear, sensible, closed toe, black footwear only please. Boots /Trainers /Heels are not allowed. Jewellery of any kind is not permitted in school at any time, please do not send your child back in with earrings in September. For any queries, please refer to the school website.

Homework

Homework will change initially in September as we aim to reduce the items that come in and out of school from home. At first, we will resume the use of the home-school workbooks sent home in June and your child will be set work to complete by their teacher each week via Seesaw/Tapestry. Due to this, please do not complete any more of the books than has been set up to the end of this academic year. The home-school books are not to be brought into school and can be marked using the answers included. This will be reviewed at the end of the Autumn term.

There will be no work set over the holidays; however, the online resources such as TT Rockstars/Prodigy/Lexia etc will still be accessible.

Please look after yourselves and each other and if you need any additional guidance or have any questions, then staff in school will always be willing to help.

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Mr Matthews at school via phone or via email head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk

With best wishes and prayers,

Mrs Lynn Lakner

Mr David Matthews



"May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."