



St Francis Catholic Primary School

Plan for full reopening for Parents, Carers and Pupils – September 2020

This document was produced using DfE guidance which can be read in full here:

- [Full opening of schools from the start of the autumn term](#)
- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

It is the responsibility for each school to read and digest the guidance and then make the decisions that are best for their setting. Every decision that is made in this plan starts and ends with the safety of the pupils, staff and families. Although we are educators, this must never take precedence over the health and safety of all of our stakeholders.

The government and the Department for Education announced their intention for all children to be back in school in September in June 2020. The subsequent release of the guidance has allowed schools to look in detail at how they can welcome children back to school safely.

It is important to remember that the risks associated with the virus have not disappeared. However, the guidance clearly states that the prevalence of coronavirus has decreased and because of the NHS Test and Trace system, there is a confidence that this can be achieved provided appropriate measures are implemented.

In formulating the plan, as the school have done throughout the pandemic, the needs and safety of the children have been placed as the highest priority. Through running a successful return to school for the eligible year groups since June, we have seen how when well-planned actions are communicated and implemented well, they can be successful.

In order for the return to school in September successfully, there will need to be an understanding from children, parents and staff that we all need to work together. Measures in school can be managed with risk assessments in place. We will therefore be reliant on parents to continue to follow the wider national guidance and restrictions in order to keep everyone safe.

We will continue to monitor the situation over the summer break, and will update you as to any changes that may need to be made.

The guidance rightly states 'Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development ...' It also goes on to say 'For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus...'

A lot has been said in the media about the impact of lockdown on the education of a generation of children. I would urge you all to not be too concerned about this. Children across the country will have had different experiences over the period that they have not been in school. As a school we have two priorities: the wellbeing, safety and security of the children in school and delivering a broad, balanced curriculum. Planning for these priorities will enable us to work with the children to ensure they meet the requirements of their year group curriculum quickly and precisely.

We will need to carefully assess the children’s new starting points and plan for their next steps. We will use this information to ensure that the learning for your children is tailored to their needs. We will build up the learning in small, sequential and coherent steps to ensure that knowledge and new learning is secure.

We know that arrangements that we will have to make will not necessarily satisfy all families. In situations where you feel that there are concerns, we would urge you to communicate these with us. Whilst we have endeavoured to be as fair as we can possibly be, we have had to place the safety needs and requirements of the school community first.

Our Plan to Reopen the School Fully

	Questions you may have	Plan
Reopening	Is the school reopening on the 1st September?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st and 2nd September are INSET days and therefore we plan for the <u>school to reopen from 3rd September</u> to Years 1-6 and <u>4th September to Reception on a flexible basis</u> • <i>Should there be a Government announcement or further guidance before this time, this plan may be updated. Parents will be contacted.</i>
Attendance	Which children can attend?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children can now attend school in September
	Does my child have to attend?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School attendance is compulsory from September • A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) • Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school • If this is the case the school will provide remote learning • For children who have not attended school since March, we understand there may be some anxieties. As a school we will support all children to ensure they are reassured as they return to school
Grouping of children	How will children be grouped?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From September, children will be in their designated classroom with their new teacher support staff where appropriate. This will be in the normal class size of 30 - 32 children
	Will classes mix?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, classes won’t mix as this will make it quicker and easier, in the event of a positive case, to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible • Because of this, assemblies will take place in classrooms on a Monday and Friday assemblies will continue to be delivered by Mrs Blanden and Mrs Herron remotely to the classrooms
Minimising Contact	How will you keep my child safe?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each class will continue to learn in their allocated classroom which they will stay in for the duration of the day. As has been the case throughout the period since March, there will be plenty of opportunities to use the playground and other outside space throughout the day.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children will continue be provided with a set of resources that they will need throughout the day. These will vary from year group to year group due to the nature of the resources required and appropriate to the age and stage of the children. • The classroom layout will change to support side by side learning.
Learning	What will my child be learning in school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are expected to ensure that the curriculum remains broad and ambitious and that all pupils are taught a wide range of subjects • After assessing pupils starting points we will prioritise filling gaps in their knowledge, in particular in English and Maths. Topic learning will continue, with other subjects such as Music and PE • For children in the Early Years (Year R) we will prioritise the Prime Areas of Learning and for Year R, early reading, language acquisition and maths too.
Lunch	Will my child have a packed lunch or a school dinner and who will provide this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be eligible for a Universal Infant Free School Meal – for at least term one this will be a school packed lunch. This needs to be ordered through Parent Pay. • Children eligible for a free school lunch should order a packed lunch through parent pay. • Once you have selected your option, this must remain your choice until further notice • Children in Years 3- 6 can order a paid packed lunch or bring one in.
Uniform	What does my child have to wear to school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From September children will be expected to be back in full school uniform. • On the days they have PE, children will come to school in their PE kit. You will be informed of these days in September. This will avoid children having to mix when changing for PE and limit what they bring in to school. This will be from w/c 7th September
	What else does my child need to bring to school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may bring a book bag/bag to school for their reading book, other resources will be provided in school so children do not need their own pencil case etc. • Children will need a fruit snack and a water bottle • Please apply sun cream before your child comes to school when necessary • On warm sunny days, please ensure your child has a hat/cap • Please send in a coat as necessary
Drop off and pick up procedures	Where do I drop my child?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce congestion in and around the school we will continue to ask that only one adult will be able to accompany the child into the school grounds • People are encouraged to walk to school where practical • To minimise contact with children from different year groups/classes we will have staggered pick up and drop off times. • We will also operate a one way system for parents and carers entering the school grounds. • There will be members of SLT to support with this whilst you get used to the new routines • To minimise time and contact for adults and children, please drop your child off and leave as quickly as you possibly can • It will not be possible to discuss matters with the teacher as we normally do, nor will parents be able to enter the classroom and help settle the children. This is to minimise contact for both children and adults • You may leave a message with a Senior member of staff or email the teacher if you feel this will help

What time do I drop my child off?

To limit the contact between groups of children and parents, we will have to operate a more robust and time managed entry and exit system. There will be three timings and these must be followed.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL EARLY AS YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ONTO THE SCHOOL SITE UNTIL YOUR ALLOCATED TIME

Older children may walk to school on their own, however, both outside and inside school grounds, they should maintain a social distance at all times. If we have concerns over this, or if punctuality is affected, we will discuss this with you.

- Schools are expected to provide normal teaching hours from September
- We will continue to have a staggered start/finish time to avoid congestion at drop-off/collection points
- It is essential that parents are prompt when dropping-off/collecting pupils to avoid large numbers of adults on the site at any one time
- Parents must not linger in the car park, and must leave the school site immediately.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to leave pupils at the gates where possible. These will be manned by staff

- Timings of the school day are:

- *Latest Breakfast Club drop off 8.20pm*

EYFS – St Ann and St Lucy	8.30am – 2.30pm
YR – St Ann Y1 - St Joseph Y2 - St John	8.45am – 2.45pm
YR - St Lucy Y1 - St Matthew Y2 - St Anthony	9.00am – 3.00pm
Y3 - St Luke Y4 - St Peter Y5 - St Theresa Y6 – St Claire	8.45am – 3.10pm
Y3 - St Mark Y4 - St Paul Y5 - St Bernadette Y6 - St Margaret	9.00am – 3.10pm

		<p>There may be a few cases where siblings or children collected by registered childminders are in different drop off and pick up groups. Please contact the school office at office@st-francis.kent.sch.uk if this is the case. This only applies to siblings and registered childminders not friends or informal arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children will enter and leave the building in three ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Year R, 1, 2 – The multi-use court (Cage) ○ Year 3, 4 – side entrance gate ○ Year 5, 6 – main school entrance <p>There will be a one way system in place which will be clearly marked to support clarity and safety.</p> <p>Only those parents/carers with a blue disabled badge and registered childminders will be allowed to bring their car onto the site and additional provision will be made. – This is for the safety of the whole school community. If you are a registered childminder or have a blue disabled parking badge please contact the school at office@st-francis.kent.sch.uk on 1st or 2nd September and arrangements will be made to ensure access onto the school site. Proof will be required</p> <p>Staff will be present in each area to help the children into school.</p> <p>At the end of the day children in reception, year one and year two will line up outside to be collected from the cage.</p> <p>Children in years three, four, five and six will line up to be collected from the key stage two playground.</p>
<p>Personal Protective Equipment</p>	<p>Will the staff and children need to wear face masks?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE • PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ where an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at schools, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained ○ where a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used

Effective infection protection and control	What safety measures will be in place?	<p>Schools must follow the following preventative measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach 4) continue enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) <p>Our reviewed risk assessment will show all these measures are in place</p>
	What happens if my child or someone in their bubble becomes unwell?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents need to check their children for symptoms. If you have any concerns that your child may have any symptoms, you must keep your child at home and isolate for 7 days. All members of the household must isolate for 14 days. This will restrict children attending school for 14 days • If another child or adult in the bubble becomes unwell we will follow the clear PHE guidelines on testing and tracing

When schools were closed to most pupils in March it was a situation that none of us had faced before. As a school we have tried to provide meaningful learning opportunities and activities for all pupils. Some schools were better placed to provide online learning quickly but with varied effectiveness. Our parent survey showed that most parents were very happy with the efforts teaching staff made to provide home learning. However we recognise that you would have liked more ‘live’ instruction and we recognise the need for a ‘blended’ approach to learning for children who may be self-isolating or in quarantine, or where there is a local lockdown.

From September we will be using Google Classrooms to support home learning **where appropriate**.

Plan Variations

This plan has been written with the premise that all children will attend, and that there will be sufficient staff.

Risk assessments will be updated and posted on our website, in preparation for a full return to school in September.

Thank you for your continued support.