



26th February 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Initial plans for a full school reopening on 8th March 2021

On Monday 22nd Feb, we got the news many of us were hoping for – we are opening back up to **ALL** of our pupils from Monday 8th March 2021, almost a whole calendar year since we first had to close our doors due to COVID-19. Whilst I appreciate that for some families they cannot wait for their children to come back to school others will have different concerns and worries about returning to school. Please be reassured that we follow all the national government and local authority guidance and are in the process of carrying out a thorough review of the current whole school risk assessment.

I am very reassured that lots of the updated government guidance on mitigation measures, aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19, we already have in place as part of our ongoing enhanced good practice. I cannot promise that no child will get COVID-19 and I cannot promise the no bubble will be closed for a 10-day isolation period, however I can assure you we will do everything in our power to minimize the risks associated with having all our pupils back together in our school building.

Pupils will continue to remain within their year group bubbles; whilst staff are allocated to a single year group they may on occasion need to cross bubbles but this will be kept to a minimum. The principle guidance remains as it always has: Hands, Face, Space & Ventilation. All staff and pupils wash/sanitise their hands on a very regular basis using soap and water and/or hand sanitizer provided in school, staff may wear visors, pupils will be encouraged to keep a 2m distance between them when playing outside, however obviously in the classroom they will all be within their class bubble and finally all classrooms and communal space will continue to have windows open all day to create ventilation and outside air exchange.

We are very aware that every child will return to school, whether they have been attending during lock down or home learning, with gaps in their learning and needing various forms of both academic and emotional support. Staff are going to be very supportive and mindful of all of this as the children return. All pupils will be supported emotionally and academically through their return and on an ongoing basis, we are in this together for the long haul. Please be aware that the catch up necessary will take a very long time and no one expects your child to be in line with current Age Related Expectations immediately on their return, so please try not to put pressure on yourself or your child to worry about continual catch up. Staff are going to sensitively and accurately assess where pupils are once they all return and then put into place ongoing and bespoke support packages to help children, but please do not expect your child to catch up a years' worth of missed schooling in a few weeks or months. School has signed up to the National Tutoring Programme and Government Catch up funding and over the coming weeks and months we will be working out the best ways to

support your child moving forward, we will not have all the answers for every child immediately, our staff will need to spend time with your child reconnecting and assessing. Remember every single child will have a different gap, so classes of 30 children will have at least 30 different gaps, in every topic, in every subject. The task to catch up will indeed be a herculean effort but I know that with all the support and encouragement from staff, parents and governors our pupils will embrace the very real challenge ahead of us. I say none of this to worry you, more to reassure you that it cannot all be done straight away, and that we recognize what an amazing job every single one of you have done with all of your children whether they have been in school or learning from home. Whatever learning you have done together, however large or small has been a support to your child. Please be assured that we are all committed to the long term future of your children’s education at St John Vianney.

Year Group Bubble	Drop-off Time	Pick-up Time
Year 6	8.30am	3.30pm
Year 5	8.35am	3.25pm
Year 4	8.40am	3.20pm
Year 3	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 2	8.50am	3.10pm
Year 1	8.55am	3.00pm
Reception	9.00am	3.00pm
Nursery Rainbows- Mon/Tues Wed AM Sunshine - Wed PM Thurs/ Fri	9.05am 8.30am 12.30pm 9.05am	3.05pm 11.30am 3.30pm 3.05pm

In terms of practicalities:

- The timetable of staggered entrance times and leaving times remains unchanged, we ask that as we will have 472 children and their parents walking up the pavement on Hillhead road, please socially distance as much as possible and wear masks
- Only arrive with one adult and your children at your allocated time slot – there is not enough space to linger and chat
- Late comers will have to wait until there is a gap in the bubbles going in, so punctuality is essential if you do not want to wait around
- Please **DO NOT** bring large bags into school, we do not have space to store them due to the reconfigured spaced out classrooms. Also they are a COVID hazard as they cannot all be wiped down. Small book bags will be allowed from 8th March to bring in a reading book/reading journal from school and home and for Y5 and Y6 children to bring in intimate care products as necessary
- Reading books will be sent home on a Friday and brought back to school on a Wednesday – every book will be wiped down with antibacterial wipes in school on Thursday and sent back out on Friday
- Water bottles can be brought into school daily and taken home nightly to be washed

- Packed lunches – Please use individual packed lunch bags
- Pupils to wash hands before school and immediately they return home
- Home learning packs – please keep all resources at home and only return the completed exercise book with work in it on w/c 8th March 2021

I will write out with further information next week but I hope that this will at least reassure you we are working hard behind the scenes to make things as comfortable and smooth for your children's return to school as possible.

I continue to keep you and all of your families in my thoughts and prayers during this challenging time, and I look forward to welcoming back every pupil into school as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher