

# St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

Every Person is Precious to God



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family have had a safe and enjoyable summer break.

All of the staff at St. Columba's are really looking forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 7th September. Lots of planning has taken place over the summer to ensure that your children are safe in our setting and I am sending this letter in advance of the term starting to hopefully alleviate any concerns you may have.

It is really important that all of the children return to school next week. The children have already missed a significant amount of time in their education and this will have affected them not only in their learning but also with their mental health and wellbeing. It is very important for children to get back to normal as soon as possible. I can assure you that the risk of transmission is very low between young people and the school is taking every step possible to minimise any risk there might be. During a briefing for school leaders last week from medical advisers, we were told that out of 1 million tests done of children only 70 children were found to have Covid-19, which we found extremely reassuring.

We want you to have as much information as possible about how we are minimising the risk and protecting the children whilst they are at school. The remaining pages of this letter detail the plans which are in place in classrooms and the staggered timings for the start and the end of the school day. From Monday 7th September, we also plan to have a dedicated section on the school website where you can access any relevant information relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. This will include the risk assessments we have in place and the most recent information from the DFE and public health organisations. In the meantime, you should find the leaflet attached to this email and the following link useful if you have any questions relating to your child's return to school:

[DFE What parents and carers need to know about schools and early years setting in the Autumn term](#)

I thank you in advance for sending your child to school next week. Whilst break times, drop offs and collections might have changed, life in the classroom will be very much 'business as usual'. The staff have many interesting and engaging activities planned for your children and they will be in touch later in the week to share some of these ideas. We will also be offering extensive catch up learning so that children can be back on track with their education as soon as possible.

If you have any questions relating to your child's return to school then please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself, our senior leaders or your child's class teacher. We will be available on Thursday and Friday this week if you have any urgent concerns.

Yours faithfully

Anna Gautrey  
Headteacher



## Children Returning to School September 2020

When the children return on Monday, each class will operate as a separate bubble. Before the holidays, we were fortunate enough to welcome many children across all year groups back to school. This allowed school to trial the use of the bubbles with much success meaning that staff and families are already familiar with how they run. We will continue to have separate drop offs, breaktimes, lunches and collection times. The children, apart from our very youngest, will sit in forward facing rows. For the safety of everyone, parents are asked to drop off their children at the allocated gate and time so that each bubble can be kept separate.

Please see your child's pick up and drop off location below:

| Class:          | Where:                      | Drop off: | Collect: |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Year 1 Beech    | Gate by the Nursery snicket | 8:30      | 2:45     |
| Year 1 Pine     | Gate by the Nursery snicket | 8:40      | 2:50     |
| Year 2 Cherry   | Gate by the Nursery snicket | 8:50      | 2:55     |
| Year 2 Willow   | Gate by the Nursery snicket | 9am       | 3pm      |
| Year 3 Hazel    | Gate by Church              | 8:30      | 2:45     |
| Year 3 Maple    | Gate by Church              | 8:40      | 2:50     |
| Year 4 Rowan    | Gate by Church              | 8:50      | 2:55     |
| Year 4 Poplar   | Gate by Church              | 9am       | 3pm      |
| Year 5 Hawthorn | Main gate                   | 8:30      | 2:45     |
| Year 5 Sycamore | Main gate                   | 8:40      | 2:50     |
| Year 6 Horse C  | Main gate                   | 8:50      | 2:55     |
| Year 6 Silver B | Main gate                   | 9am       | 3pm      |

*EYFS parents have been given their arrangement in a separate letter.*

### **Breakfast Club**

For the first half term, Breakfast Club (starting at 8am) will be only offered to Key Worker children. This is to avoid children from different classes mixing together. Breakfast will still be available for all children but the staff will bring it to the classroom for the children to eat when they arrive.

### **After School Club**

After School Club will only be available for Key Worker children initially. This is because the After School Club will need to be in the hall. Each class will have a separate table and the children will need to stay seated during this provision.

### **Reading Book and Book Bags**

Mrs Ramsden and Miss Wolanski have created a safe system for taking home reading books which they will share with you next week. However, the children do not need to bring in bookbags and I would ask you not to send them in with anything apart from their packed lunch.