



ST AGNES Catholic Primary School

With Jesus beside us, we do our best

Rainhill Way, Bow, London, E3 3ER

Tel: 020 8980 3076

Email: info@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms B McDaid

Dear Parents/Guardians,

15th July 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back on **Thursday 3rd September 2020**. We have missed you and can't wait to see your smiling faces once again.

Following the release of government guidance regarding the opening of schools to all classes we have been planning how this might be achieved in line with suggestions to stagger start times and reduce contact between bubbles. Our risk assessment has been adapted to reflect current government thinking and will soon be available on the school website.

Please see below staggered start and finish times for each class in the school. It also contains details of class teachers for next year. As you all know Mrs Kemp is retiring at the end of this academic year and Mrs Manning is taking her place as our Deputy Head.

Class	Timing	Entrance/Exit	Class Teacher
Nursery from 7 th Sept	8.50 – 11.50 p/t or 8.50 – 3.00 full time	Via car park – front of school	Miss Karla
Reception from 7 th Sept	9.05-3.15pm	Via car park – front of school	Miss Maximin
Year One – 3 rd Sept	8.50-3.05 pm	Alleyway	Miss Kennedy
Year Two - 3 rd Sept	9.00-3.15pm	Alleyway	Miss McKenna
Year Three – 3 rd Sept	8.50-3.05pm	Double gates next to pen	Mr Crow
Year Four – 3 rd Sept	9.10-3.25pm	Alleyway	Miss Kangal-Nurse
Year Five – 3 rd Sept	9.00-3.15pm	Double gates next to pen	Miss O'Garro
Year Six – 3 rd Sept	9.10-3.25pm	Double gates next to pen	Mrs Manning

If your child has a sibling in the school, arrival is at the latest drop off time and place and collection is the earliest pick up time and place. Siblings should therefore come to school and leave together.

Parents should be aware that these plans may be subject to change at short notice, as further guidance becomes available from the Government. Similarly, the availability of staff may be affected by illness, isolation or family bereavement. This too may cause a disruption to the delivery of these plans.

We need to create a 'bubble' for your child in school, to ensure that they are kept safe at all times when they are with us. Your child will work within their year group bubble in their classroom with the same adults. Please be aware that if a child or staff member in your child's bubble tests positive for Covid, the bubble will close and all involved will have to self isolate for 14 days.

There is an acknowledgement from the Government that the social distancing measures followed in society will be very difficult to maintain within a primary school. Schools will look and feel very different as we implement the Government's recommended measures in order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading in our school setting, as best we can.

Please note that the government has stated that attendance is compulsory and fines will be issued to parents who do not send their children to school without a valid reason.

Groupings

Each class will be kept separate from other classes. They will undertake all activities and learning within their class group and they will not mix with any other children within the school. Playtimes will be staggered, with classes playing in separate designated areas. At this time we are unable to have whole school assemblies and services.

Lunches

The school kitchen will continue to provide a free meal for the children from Reception to Year Six in the school. This will be a packed lunch. They will be delivered to the classroom, where the children will eat. Please let us know if your child will be having a packed lunch provided by the school. Please note packed lunches from home should only contain food which the children can open themselves, adults will not be able to assist with this in most cases. Cutlery will not be provided. Lunches will be staggered across the school and the children will go outside to play within their group in separate designated areas.

Drop off/pick up

Only staff and children will be allowed on the school site. Only one adult should accompany your child/ren to school. In the case of an emergency, when another adult needs to pick up your child, the password system will still be in place. Parents contact the office stating who is collecting their child and the password they will use to identify themselves. Entry will be from designated points as indicated above. Ensure that you observe social distancing from each other and staff when queueing. Your child will be greeted by a member of staff from his/her bubble. It is really important that drop-off and pick up times are adhered to in order to comply with rules of social distancing. Anyone who is unable to comply with this will be asked to stay away from the premises. Any communication with the school must be either by telephone or email. Teachers will be unable to take messages at the gate.

It is essential that everyone is dropped off and picked up on time as every available gate is being used and we are trying to avoid overlaps between bubbles. If your child is late please phone the office and someone will get back to you when they are available giving advice on how to proceed. If they are late, they cannot be brought in with another bubble. Once you have dropped your child safely please leave the area to avoid congestion.

Wrap around care

Expression of interests have been taken for Breakfast Club and Sherpa AfterSchool Club. Those who have been offered places will be advised as soon as possible. This provision will begin from **Monday 7th September 2020**. If you are in Nursery or new to Reception, please register your interest with the office at info@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Infection Protection and Control

Any child, or member of staff, with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school and seek a test immediately. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

If a child or member of staff does present with symptoms of COVID-19, while at school, they will be isolated and, in the case of the child, parents will be contacted to come and collect them immediately. Children are eligible for COVID testing and should seek a test immediately. A positive test result will mean that their bubble will close, and all of their group (children and adults) will need to self-isolate for fourteen days. Home learning will be provided during any closure.

If your child tests positive or someone they live with tests positive they must not attend school and should self-isolate for 14 days. Please make sure you inform the school if this is the case. See further details in our risk assessment shortly available online.

Extra soap and hand sanitisers are in the school in preparation for the re-opening. Children should wash their hands at home and upon arrival at school. Children will wash/sanitise their hands in accordance with Government guidance. This routine will be repeated when the children return from morning break, before they eat their lunch, on return to the classroom after their lunch break and just before home time.

The Government protocol of 'catch it, bin it, kill it,' will be followed rigorously and hands washed after any coughs and sneezes. Each classroom has a pedal bin for the disposal of tissues and paper towels.

Frequently touched surfaces around the school e.g. door handles, taps, desks will be cleaned throughout the day. The school has increased the number of cleaners employed, including an additional cleaner who is on the premises from 9.00 – 3.00pm daily.

In order to minimize physical contact and promote social distancing:

- Classrooms have been remodelled to allow for as much distance as possible between tables.
- Markings have been placed around the school and in the corridor to assist with social distancing at pinch points.
- One way systems are in place, as far as possible, for movement around the school.
- The day will be arranged to ensure minimal movement during the day.
- Each child will have all they need in their own plastic wallet provided by the school.
- The children can bring **one** water bottle containing water only, which will stay on their desks for use and water fountains in the playground will be shut off.
- Internal doors and windows will be kept open where possible to ensure maximum ventilation. The school air conditioning system and fans cannot be used.
- PPE equipment will be available for staff use in certain circumstances e.g. administering first aid or caring for a child who develops virus symptoms.

For more information, see our risk assessment on <https://www.st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk/> It is a working document.

Uniform

Children will be expected to arrive in school in full school uniform. Details are available on the website. A copy is attached for your convenience.

Scooters

No scooters will be allowed into school to avoid congestion and cross bubbling.

Administration of Medicines

Please make the school aware of any medical requirements and ensure their medication is brought into school on the first day back.

Unfortunately, adults will not be allowed into school at this time, other than by appointment only and staff cannot take messages at the school gate. Please telephone or email the School Office to pass on a message or to make a telephone appointment.

Our school will not be the environment that any of us are used to, but be assured that we will do all we can, in spite of the restraints to help your children settle into this new school experience and make it a pleasant learning environment for them. Please could you help prepare your children for their return to school by explaining what will happen and why. This may help to alleviate some anxiety they might have about returning to school.

This letter feels like a lot of information but I know you will understand how important it is that we make St. Agnes a safe place for children and staff. Every one of us has a role to play in ensuring we minimize the risk of spreading the infection.

Once again we look forward to seeing you all in September. In the meantime I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

With very best wishes

Ms. Brid McDaid
HEADTEACHER