



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School

Hawthorn Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry. CV4 9LB
Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Askew

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8th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Reception,

I am writing to give you more detail of the planned re-opening of school to Reception children.

We will be welcoming Reception pupils back from **Wednesday 10th June**. Due to the restricted number of children we can have in a classroom, we must cap the number of Reception children at 28.

Whilst we understand that it is very difficult to implement social distancing with Reception children, we have taken a number of measures to ensure our Reception children can safely return which include the following:

- If you, your child or someone you live with is displaying coronavirus symptoms, do not bring your child into school. We will be asking staff to do the same.
- We will be keeping our children in 'bubbles' of 8 to 10 children and two adults. Each 'bubble' will stay together throughout the day and won't mix with other children.
- We will be cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly
- We will teach our children about good hygiene through a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
- We will be cleaning more often and more thoroughly, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment. We have removed any soft toys or difficult-to-clean items from the classrooms.
- When you drop your child off or pick them up, we ask that you physically distance from other parents with their child, from staff, and that only one parent from each household drops off and picks up. Where possible, other children should stay at home.
- Children will not be able to bring toys or other items, including books, book bags or backpacks, from home to school, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing. We will not be sending things home with the children.
- If a child displays symptoms at school, they will be isolated until a parent or carer collects them.
- If there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in your child's 'bubble', you will be informed and all children and staff will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.



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- We will limit the number of people who can come onto the school site: parents will be asked to drop off and pick up at the gate and anyone coming into the office will need to phone in advance to make an appointment.

Dropping off and Picking up your Child

From the **Wednesday 10th June**, parents will not be allowed on site so we are asking parents to queue on the pedestrian path by the double gates in the Church carpark, using the markers as a guide to social distancing. A member of staff will then take your child and they will be guided into Reception by the Reception staff.

Based on the information you have already given use regarding whether you would be sending your child into school, the children have been organised into 3 groups - or 'bubbles' - as follows:

Group 1 - based in the Reception classroom with Mrs Nailor and Mrs Lucas.	Jessica, Adam, Oscar, Hera, Naledi Elizabeth, Ronnie
Group 2 - based in the Year 1 classroom with Miss Punch and Mrs Sloan.	Aibhlinn, Kaiser, Lenny, Ethan Amelie, Ruth
Group 3 - based in the hall with Mrs Finch and Mrs Kelleher.	Kazia, Kyro, Riley, Nicholas, Millie, Eddison, Isabella

We have staggered the start time for each group to enable the children to enter the building safely.
Group 1 children should be dropped off at 8.45am
Group 2 children should be dropped off at 8.55am
Group 3 children should be dropped off at 9.05am

If you arrive by car and notice that there are a number of parents queuing by the gate, please stay in your car until the queue has gone down.

At the end of the day, all children will be taken to the carpark gate at **2.45pm** where they will be released one at a time to their parent or carer. Again, we are asking parents to queue on the pedestrian path by the double gates in the church carpark, using the markers as a guide to social distancing.





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We will only be open from Monday to Thursday (with the exception of the first week, when we will only be open on Wednesday and Thursday) and will close to pupils on a Friday. This will allow staff necessary planning time and will enable a weekly deep clean of classrooms.

School will not be able to provide wraparound provision.

Lunchtime Arrangements

All children in Reception are entitled to universal free school meals. We will be providing a grab bag containing sandwiches, fruit, a drink and dessert which will be freshly prepared off site and delivered to the school. Your child will be able to choose from ham, tuna or cheese sandwiches each day. The children will eat their lunch with their 'bubble' either in the classroom or outside. We will not be providing hot meals.

If you would prefer to provide your own lunch, you must send it into school in a disposable bag as lunch boxes will not be allowed.

If you have been receiving vouchers through the government free school meals voucher scheme, you will now only receive a voucher for the days that your child does not come into school.

Uniform

We would like you to send your child into school in uniform. However, if your child has grown out of their uniform and it no longer fits we do not expect you to buy new uniform at this point of the year. We do ask that the children don't wear their school tie as this could be a source of infection. Your child does not need to bring their PE kit into school but they will need to wear shoes that are sturdy enough for PE activities. Could you also send in a named sun hat, which will stay in school, and apply all day sun cream (we will be spending more time outdoors). Staff are not allowed to apply sun cream.

Despite all these measures, you can be reassured that Reception will still be a welcoming, fun and stimulating place for your child. Even though they may not be able to play with all of their friends, they will be able to play with some of them and your child will still benefit socially, emotionally and academically from returning to school.

When the children return, routines will remain as familiar as possible while allowing for more time for washing hands and discussing issues related to concerns they may have about the Coronavirus. All areas of learning will continue within smaller, social groups and will focus on Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and early reading activities.



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The children will be having daily phonics and maths lessons and lots of opportunities for learning outdoors. They will be continuing with their RE curriculum and learning about their world through the topic of Animals. They will continue to have opportunities to be creative, construct models, sing, dance, and explore within their small learning group of up to 10 children.

Please note that whilst we will endeavour to put in place every possible measure to safeguard your children (and our staff) on their return to school we understand that that very young children who have not seen each other in months are likely to struggle to understand or keep to these new 'rules'. As such, we cannot completely eliminate the risk in relation to the virus; however, we can assure you that we have done our utmost to put in place practical measures, together with new ways of working, which minimise the risk as far as reasonably possible. These will be under continuous review to ensure we are doing everything we can to keep your child safe.

Once again, let me reassure you that the safety of your child and the staff is, and remains, our number one priority.

If you have any concerns about your child's return to Reception please contact the school by phone or email. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs Nailor via Dojo.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to Our Lady of the Assumption.

Yours sincerely,

R. Askew

Mrs R Askew
Headteacher

Michael Sharkey

Mr M Sharkey
Chair of Governors

