



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
ROTTINGDEAN
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA

www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



August 17th 2020

Re: Preparations for September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that the summer holidays are proving enjoyable and that you remain safe and well. You'll remember that I wrote to you at the end of the Summer Term with details of the staggered starts and finishes that we're putting in place to ensure we can begin in September as smoothly as possible, whilst also managing to bring all the children back as safely as we can. Just to remind you, this is what we said:

Arrival Times:

Year 5 and 6 – 8.30am

Year 3 and 4 – 8.45am

Year 1 and 2 – 9.00am

If there are siblings, our thinking is that these children will come in at the time of the oldest child. Their days will then be staggered giving us end points that might look like this:

Departure Times:

Year 5 and 6 – 3.00

Year 3 and 4 – 3.15

Year 1 and 2 – 3.30

Again, siblings will leave at the time of the oldest child. (Reception Arrangements are different and have been communicated separately with the relevant parents.)

When coming in, parents and carers should use the pedestrian gate as normal and there will be members of the Leadership Team around to help you. Once you've dropped off your child, please do not linger but leave the premises as soon as possible so that we can manage the flow of traffic in an easier manner. There are limited numbers of places for breakfast and after school club and these should only be used where absolutely necessary and booked in the usual way. The year group bubbles will continue to exist within this provision. We'll monitor this carefully and keep you updated with any changes.

In terms of the children's experience within school, each bubble of children will have specific staff attached to it in order to allow lessons, break times and lunch to run at separate times to each other and therefore ensure that bubbles of children do not mix. These arrangements will be reviewed frequently by the staff and I will keep you updated with any changes as they occur. We've also ensured that there are the relevant cleaning products in every classroom and work space so that rooms can be adequately cleaned during breaks and lunches as well as at the end of the day. In line with guidance, children will sit in rows facing forward. Toilets will also be cleaned regularly.

In terms of other logistics, I would really value your support in ensuring we work together in the following ways in order to reduce the traffic of materials going between home and school:

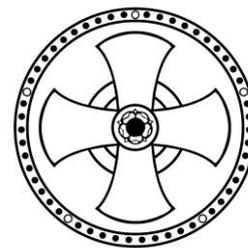
- It seems to make sense to begin with a rather relaxed uniform so that we reduce the need for laundering ties and jumpers. Children should wear their school trousers, shorts or skirts with their school shirt, please. Jumpers and ties can stay at home. In terms of shoes,

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where children cannot yet tie their laces, Velcro shoes should be worn, or failing that, Velcro trainers or their PE pumps.

- Where weather allows, coats should remain at home to reduce the need for students gathering by pegs.
- Children should only bring in what is absolutely essential to their learning and day at school. Lunchboxes can be brought in of course, but will need to be wipeable, please. These should also be named as usual.
- Pencil cases and stationery sets can also remain at home, please.
- Children in R, Year 1 and 2, will do their Sport in the regular uniform, Children in Year 3, 4 5 and 6 should bring in Sports Kit.
- Initially, we won't be sending home reading books, but will instead be offering reading lists of books that children are likely to already own; again, this is to reduce things moving between home and school. Where parents require more support with reading, we'll be in touch about other ideas we have for how we might help with that.
- Although the guidance suggests that mask wearing is not necessary, I would suggest that those colleagues and children who wished to wear a mask do so.
- Children may bring named drinking bottles which can be filled up at the water fountains throughout the day. We won't be allowing children to drink directly from the fountains.

The focus for our first fortnight back will be to support all the children with their new routines and re-establish our daily practices and working relationships. We're keen to keep the curriculum as normal as possible and to re-induct the children into being back in the classroom as safely as possible. We will be running lessons in our wooded area for some children, but will ensure that this can be done safely with children in their relaxed uniform. Once we're used to our new routines, staff and children will be involved in a benchmarking activity toward the start of October, where we will ascertain where the children are in terms of their key skills in reading, writing and maths. For those younger children we'll also be looking to see how their phonics is developing. You can be sure that we will keep you updated with this nearer the time and informed of any support or extra provision that we will be using to support your child; whether this is to fill gaps or provide extension.

Finally, I know that there will be mixed feelings for us all as September rolls into view. There will be those who want to get back to normal and others who feel highly anxious. If there are any specific points that you need clarity over or are concerned by, please do contact me at school prior to the term starting and I'll do my best to help. I look forward to seeing you at the start of the Autumn Term on Monday September 7th.

With warm wishes,

Paul Barber
Headteacher

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