



FAQs

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES ARE MADE ON A DAILY BASIS

What measures have been taken to reduce risk?

A Local Authority Risk Assessment has been sent to schools. This is accessible via the school website.

Can I change the time of pick up and collection?

No. The timings have been designed to try and minimise the number of parents and children coming into contact.

Can my child change group?

No. Groups have been determined primarily on Key Worker children and siblings, if other year groups are to return, the management of this will now be far easier regarding groupings.

How can I reassure my child about returning to school?

School has made available some material that will help them. The material is suitable for children of any age and is accessible via the school website. Lots of conversations and reassurances about how the adults are going to look after them will also help.

What will happen to Key Worker children on Fridays?

Key worker children will come together into mixed age groups, up to a maximum of 15 children per group.

The Government has set out guidance only, recognising that all school settings are different.

What will you be teaching in school?

Our main focus will be the mental health and wellbeing of the children. School will be focusing on personal, social and emotional needs first. Embedding school routines and developing friendships. There will be lots of outdoor and creative activities wherever possible.

The curriculum will be a 'Recovery Curriculum'. Reception and Year 1 will return to their phonics and reading and Year 6 will use the time to focus on their transition to High School.

What is the school position on uniform during this term?

Children should wear their summer uniform. Ties need not be worn.

If my child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 do I have to send them to school?

No, the government has stipulated that during this time parents can decide whether or not to send their children to school. You will not be fined for not attending.

Will you still be providing support to families who continue to home school their children?

All staff working with pupils in school Monday-Thursday will be providing limited online learning for those pupils not in school. Pupils in Y2-Y5 will continue as they are.

As the school is closed to priority year groups on Friday, staff will use this time to support remote learning to all year groups in addition to preparing work and resources for the following week.

How will the classroom be set up?

Tables will be grouped with one child at each table. Many of the tables and chairs have been removed, leaving enough room for social distancing. Children will be given their own resources to use. Where resources are shared, these will be cleaned regularly, many of the resources have been removed.

What will happen at lunchtimes and playtimes?

The children will remain in their groups throughout the whole day and the teaching assistants, teachers who are with them and lunchtime supervisors will look after the children on a rota to be able to have their own lunch.

As the children are being given a 'grab bag' or bringing a packed lunch this means they will be able to eat, in the classroom, outside or depending on where this has been timetabled for them.

How will school ensure cleaning is done thoroughly?

The cleaners will come every day after the children have left school. Along with the site supervisor on Fridays they will ensure extra cleaning is done when there are fewer children in school.

Will my child be able to socialise with other children?

No. children will remain in their own 'bubbles' at all times.

Will there be any end of year celebrations/assemblies or 'Meet the new teacher' events planned?

No. There will be no usual end of year events taking place.

What measures are in place for entering the school grounds?

Clear signs and directions will be placed around the school, with markers. We urge all parents to abide to strict social distancing. Only one adult is allowed onto the school grounds. Any parents not abiding by the guidelines will be asked to leave.

The school office will NOT be open to parents. Phone call appointments only.

What happened if my child is poorly?

As with any absence, it is important to let the school office know as soon as possible even more important during this time. If your child displays any symptoms then inform the school immediately and have them tested. If anyone in your household displays COVID-19 symptoms, keep your child off school and self-isolate!

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in my child's school, college or childcare setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Catholic Primary School

[Further FAQs for parents of priority groups and Critical workers](#)

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES ARE MADE ON A DAILY BASIS

How will you limit the risk of infection for my child?

Schools are currently awaiting approval of their risk assessment ahead of re-opening so that they can put in place a comprehensive programme of measures to limit the risk to staff and children. These will be available on the school's website and regularly updated.

Due to the age of the children who will be returning, social distancing will be a challenge. Therefore, the government have suggested;

- smaller class sizes - with a maximum of 15 children per class depending on classroom space
- rearrange classrooms - ensuring desks are spaced out as far as possible.
- limit mixing - children will stay in their groups and be assigned specific staff members
- staggered timetables - Limiting number of children on lunch and breaks, changes to pick up and drop off times

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as disinfectant

What if one of my children is in one of the returning years but another is not?

- Only children in these year groups can return to school from Wednesday **17th June**. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group.
- The Government has since announced that it is highly unlikely that other year groups will be returning before the summer holidays.

Should my child wear a face covering, mask or other PPE?

Government guidance states, "Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended"

Staff will only wear PPE when;

- a child whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs.
- a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Will there be COVID-19 testing and contact tracing in education and childcare settings?

Testing is already available for all school staff and their household members.

When the wider cohort of children are invited to return to their education settings, all those children eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

To access testing parents should use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. They should call 111 if the child is under 5.

This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative.

In the event of a child or member of staff testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), the relevant group of people within the school with whom the child has mixed closely (their

cohort), should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take.

Usually someone else collects my child from school as I have to go into work, can someone from another household collect my child?

Government guidance would only allow someone to pick up a child from another household if a 2m distance is kept between them. This would be very difficult with young children and therefore we would advise only members from your household should collect your child.

Will my child get a hot meal or a packed lunch?

To help with staggered lunch times, it is likely that schools will start with the provision of a packed lunch. We can then assess meal numbers and if it's worth opening up the school kitchens. Schools are keen for a "normal service" to resume as soon as possible so that the children get a hot meal but the provision of a packed lunch will reduce the contact required for serving food. Parents will be kept informed of any changes to lunch time food but this is unlikely at the moment.

How can I look after my child's mental health and well-being?

The government has just issued new guidance for parents and carers on looking after the mental health and well-being of children and young people, during the COVID-19 outbreak. This advice can be found at COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

Someone in the family is suspected of having COVID-19. What do I do?

Anyone can now register for a test through <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> or call 111 if you do not have access to the internet. You can either request a home testing kit or arrange to visit a Testing Centre. You will be able to choose a Testing Centre from a selection of those closest to you. For children under 5 the parent or guardian will be required to perform the test. **Babies and children** – call 111 if you're worried about a baby or child under 5. If the child seems very unwell, is getting worse or you think there is something seriously wrong, call 999. Do not delay getting help if you're worried. Trust your instincts.

Visitors and The School Office

The school will be limiting the external visitors during school hours.

Parents should come into the school building only when strictly necessary, by appointment, and ideally only one (unless for example, an interpreter or other support is required). Any such meetings should take place at a safe distance (and so the use of small offices may not be suitable).

Medication

If your child is ill then they should not be in school. The normal reporting arrangements of informing the school office, still remains.

No medication will be administered to children unless in exceptional circumstances

Late arrival and collection of pupils

Due to social distancing measures and different staggered starts and end of day pick up, the parent collecting children MUST be on time. There will be strictly no admittance through the office and main reception after the 'official' start times. Places of pupils may be at risk if parents do not collect pupils on time.

Good practice:

- Do not include difficult to open food items that require adult support
- Cutlery and drinks will NOT be provided, so please ensure children have these if required
- The school will inform you if children will engage in PE activities, in which case they will need to arrive into school in full PE kit for that day; equipment will not be used
- Children must be prepared for all weather as there is no admittance outside allocated times
- Ensure your child has a filled, named water bottle with them
- No bags, other than a packed lunch is required
- It would be wise for pupils to bring their own packet of tissues
- Parents are not to loiter or try and enter the school building at any time. If a parent needs to speak to a member of staff, then this is via a phone call