



# Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Catholic Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers

## Re-opening of schools

**Please read this information carefully.**

In anticipation of your child returning to school from Wednesday 17th June, please answer the following questions and return via email by **3:30pm on Friday 12th June**.

Name of child.....

I still require the place and agree to the provision / I no longer require the place for my child.  
(Delete as appropriate)

1. Has your child been kept at a social distance from everyone outside of your household?	
2. Has your child recently been in contact with someone who has displayed symptoms of COVID-19?	
3. Has your child recently been in contact with someone who has had COVID-19?	

To ease the anxiety and stress for your child could you please help to prepare him/her for their return to school. Please explain and discuss the following with your child.

1. Explain that they may not be in their own classroom or with the staff that they are used to working with
2. Explain that they will be in a classroom with 12 other children (Classroom size dictates how many children we can accommodate in the room at a 2 metre distance from each other)
3. Discuss Social Distancing with your child and how important it is that they remain at least 2 metres away from their friends and other children in school
4. Ensure that your child completely understands that hands must be washed for 20 seconds with soap and water, that tissues must be used for coughs and sneezes and they must not touch their eyes, nose and mouth

5. Explain that many resources will not be able to be used in school. We have been instructed to remove any resources that cannot easily be cleaned after use.
6. Children will only be allowed to drink from their own labelled water bottle and will not be allowed to touch another child's, not even to help them to fill it up.
7. Children will only be allowed to use their own pen or pencil etc and must not touch another child's. Children will also be given their exercise book to use to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
8. Meals will be eaten within their own group in the classroom they have been assigned to. They will take breaks and lunchbreak with that group. Breaks and lunch break will be staggered so that the groups do not mix. **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

### **Staggered Times**

The arrangements for the start and end of the school day, and decisions we make about this, allow for the need for social distancing outside and inside the school grounds. The times for your child to attend and be collected will be communicated to parents on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June . The school will be staggering the school day to support social distancing. This will mean that pupils will access the school at different times and potentially at different access points. Only one adult is allowed onto school grounds to accompany their child(ren).

Please note that all pupils will be staggered in on this first week and the school will operate **four days only**. This is to allow teaching and support staff to continue preparing, assessing, marking and working with the remaining pupils not in school to access online learning materials and for a deep clean to be undertaken.

### **Behaviour**

The Government has also issued schools with information for parents and pupils as amendments to their school policies.

### **Behaviour Principles (amended for Covid-19)**

In light of the need for children to behave differently when they return to school, and any new systems we have put in place to support that, we have made the following changes to our behaviour policy:

Pupils and Parents must follow:

- any altered routines for arrival or departure
- any school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school
- moving around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing)
- expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- tell an adult if you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus
- rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play
- use of toilets
- clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person
- clear rules for pupils at home about conduct in relation to remote education

**The rewards and sanction system to be adhered to, as age appropriate, in light of the above**

We will assess the impact of this very different learning environment and could make further decisions based on feedback.

Sitting at the same desk for long periods of time all day for our younger children may be too long and not what they are used to, and despite regular breaks, which in turn will be different to the norm for them, may mean we decide to shorten the day. We will make this decision if we feel that our youngest pupils are not coping with the situation.

Please let us know immediately if you think they are showing signs of anxiety. The environment that they are returning to is very different to the one they left in March, and it may affect the children in many different ways. We have various strategies in place to deal with the emotional well-being of our children and staff at this difficult time.

Please be assured that we will endeavour to support your child in this transition period and in working together in what is a very difficult time.

Kind regards,

Mrs Lindsay Gamble

Headteacher