



THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
The Catholic Diocese of Northampton
“Following Jesus, The Good Shepherd, in all we say and do”

Friday 4th March 2021

Guidance on the return to school – Monday March 8th 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

At the Good Shepherd, rather than saying we are coming back to school on March 8th, we are saying that we are moving forward to March 8th and we hope that our school will be better than it has ever been before!

We really cannot wait to see everyone, in our Staff Meeting this week, staff described it as ‘looking forward to Monday, as they would Christmas.’ There is definitely a buzz around school as we prepare to take everyone back.

Despite it being been a very challenging lockdown period for everyone, whether at home or in school. The work, effort and resilience your children have shown during their virtual lessons and in school, has been very impressive and we are all very proud of them.

We will be using class bubbles wherever possible again this term as we aim to minimise contact between classes and larger groups of children around school. Children’s break-times will be staggered and spaces zoned for classes.

Lunchtimes will continue as before Christmas with bubbles eating in designated rooms and supervised by lunchtime and support staff.

Weekly celebration assemblies will resume but will still be virtual – Peripatetic lessons will also be available via NMPAT staff and taught with appropriate social distancing and C-19 procedures.

Attendance and Shielding

School attendance will be mandatory for all children from Monday 8th March 2021.

We understand that families may have some concerns with current circumstances but we have reviewed our protocols and arrangements to make our school as safe as possible for children and staff and are following the latest national guidance.

All school staff are currently completing two LFD tests per week as an additional precaution. Primary age children are not required to participate in any LFD testing in school.

A copy of our updated risk assessment and reopening plan will be added to our website shortly. Any student who is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable will need to provide evidence of their shielding letter and contact the school before the reopening, next Monday.



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust Ltd

A private limited company with charitable status registered in England & Wales

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL **Company Number:** [09436283](https://www Companies House UK)

Uniform

All children should attend school in uniform or school colours as normal. Due to restrictions on some shops, we understand that you may not be able to purchase school shoes prior to reopening. Please ensure that children wear appropriate footwear for school and these must not have heels or open-toes for health and safety reasons.

Site Access

We will be using the established one - way routes around the school site until further notice. Please follow this guidance as we have planned these routes to allow a flow of traffic around the school site and support social distancing to keep the children, staff and yourselves as safe as possible. We are asking that only one adult should drop off/pickup to reduce the number of people around school.

Staff will open the main gates at exactly 8.43am to permit the first group of children to enter.

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
5 & 6	8.45	15.00
3 & 4	09.00	15.15
2	09.00	15.15
1	8.45	15.00
R1A	8.45	15.00
RN	8.45	15.00
Nursery	08.45-11.45	12.30-15.15

PLEASE only arrive at your allocated times: This will avoid large groups of adults and children congregating outside school gates or outside classrooms.

Please leave the school site as soon as possible once you have dropped your child off at the designated areas to avoid unnecessary larger gatherings. Please respect other families 2 metre social distance, wherever possible.

Parents/Carers will not be admitted into the school buildings unless in exceptional circumstances. The school office will be available via telephone or email and visitors will be by appointment only.

We request that all those adults who are able to, should wear a face mask or covering when on the school site. Unlike secondary pupils, children will not be required to wear a face mask during lessons or around the school.

Parking

Local roads on Monday will undoubtedly be busier than the previous few months. Please take extra caution when driving locally and ensure that cars are parked safely and appropriate consideration is given to provide access to neighbouring properties. Please remind your children about crossing roads safely, especially at busy times.

Ventilation and Outdoor PE

Please be aware that classrooms in school will have windows open to increase air ventilation at this time; on colder days, windows will be ajar, not closed. We recommend that families ensure children are wearing enough layers to keep warm, perhaps adding a base-layer under their clothing.



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Weather permitting; PE sessions will be taking place outside on school playgrounds or the tennis court/basketball court. Please ensure that KS1&2 children wear suitable PE Kit such as tracksuits, joggers or a warm top.

Year Group	PE Day
Y5	Tuesday AM
Reception	Tuesday PM
Y1	Wednesday AM
Miss Smith and Mrs Kelly/Mrs Maddison	Wednesday PM
Y6	Thursday am
Y2	Thursday pm
Mrs Nash	Thursday pm

Self-Isolation and positive cases

Please remember if any member of a household develops Coronavirus symptoms the entire household must self-isolate for ten days. At this point, we would ask that any children who attend The Good Shepherd to complete a PCR test and inform us of the result as soon as possible. This includes children who are not displaying any symptoms as, in our experience, they often return a positive result when tested.

Close contacts of anyone testing positive for Coronavirus will need to self-isolate for ten days, this includes close contacts of any member of staff or a student within the school.

Please keep the school informed at all times of both positive and negative results as all cases potentially have an impact on all other children, staff and their families in your child's bubble. Updates can be left via admin@thegoodshepherd.northants.sch.uk as the email address is continually monitored, including evenings and weekends.

Any close contacts of a positive case in school will be notified via a text to the first contact on your child's school record. Please ensure that this is kept up to date. The school community will be kept informed via the school app.

Sickness

Please err on the side of caution and keep your child away from school if they are not well. Please ensure the school office is made aware of absence in the normal manner. If a student has symptoms of Coronavirus (a high temperature, a cough, loss of taste/smell) keep your child at home, inform the school and arrange a PCR Covid test in the same way as last term.

If a student falls ill during the school day and there is a possibility that they may have Coronavirus you will be asked to collect your child from school and ensure they are tested for Coronavirus by PCR in the same manner as before Christmas.

Further Bubble Closures

We will continue to follow our established protocols when responding to a confirmation of a positive case in school. As soon as we are notified, members of the school leadership team will liaise with The DFE and Public Health to confirm closures and affected groups. Information will be distributed to families via text and the school app as soon as we are able to, this includes evenings and weekends.

School Meals and sandwiches

The school kitchens will re-open to all children on Monday 8th March. Families will be able to book school meals as usual, via ParentPay - please ensure that meals required for Monday are booked before the weekend.



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Breakfast Club

We will be restarting Breakfast Club week commencing 15th March. Bookings and payments for Breakfast Club should be made via School Gateway (the same system as we book school dinners on). Children should be dropped off at 08.00 in the school hall.

Please note that due to Health & Safety restrictions, parents should not drive onto the site to drop off children to Breakfast club.

The Covid-19 situation continues to improve locally and nationally, with the promise of a return to the normality we all want so much, in a few months' time. We look forward to seeing all students back in classrooms next week and thank you for all of your help, support and co-operation during this challenging period.

See you all on Monday 8th March!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Dodds
Headteacher



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