

St. Francis Church of England Primary School



School Contact Details:

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School Vision: Our aim at St. Francis Church of England Primary School is to guide our children to live fulfilling lives, rooted in the values taught by Jesus based on the gospel value of love for one another.

School Mission Statement: Love Faith. Love People. Love Learning.

School Values: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: SCHOOL UPDATE – COVID-19

As always, I hope this letter finds you safe and well and on this occasion may I wish you and your family a very happy new year.

This letter contains a lot of information so please take your time to read and digest it.

By now, you will likely have heard some of the significant news surrounding primary schools reopening this term within a Tier 4 area, including the action taken by unions calling on their members to not return to work.

Having watched the briefings, read the government guidance and union guidance and spent some time digesting this information, schools are returning as planned in our area. I must say, I have never been so thankful for an INSET day at the start of a term to gain some breathing space!

I am able to confirm at this moment in time, that we will open as planned tomorrow – Tuesday 5th January.

All of our effective procedures and routines linked to keeping our school as safe as possible will remain. Your child, and every member of our school and wider community, is my utmost priority – now more than ever. Therefore, we will continue to implement the highest level of hygiene, social distancing and other 'covid safe' measures stated in previous communications (available on the school website).

As you probably already know, everything is liable to change at very short notice! The government may make a u-turn or may alter their decision if infection rates in Blackburn/Lancashire match those currently evident in London. With the ongoing union campaign, I will also need to ensure I have enough staff in school to be operationally safe. If I deem school to be unsafe due to low staffing numbers, I will have to make the decision to close. I will of course alert you to any change.

Please remember that one of the main 'covid safe' measures that features in our risk assessment is keeping the classrooms well ventilated. Windows will remain open throughout the day so please dress your child accordingly. We will be using the outdoor space as much as possible so please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing and footwear for outside play and learning.

In order to assist the smooth running of school and to ensure we stay as 'covid safe' as possible, I must remind all parents and carers to carry out the following procedures:

- Wear a mask on dropping-off and pick-up to school. (Please ensure masks are worn correctly – covering nose and mouth)
- Drop-off will remain at 8.40am-8.50am – please do not be late as this interrupts staff routines within the school building and children miss the precious start to the day
- Pick-up will remain at 3.15pm-3.30pm
- Only one parent/carer to complete drop-off and pick-up to minimise numbers
- Stand 2m distance from any other household bubble
- Exit site quickly and within your household bubble
- Do not congregate and chat on site, for example, drop-off and pick-up – especially mixing household bubbles

- Contact school via email or telephone rather than visiting the school office
- Please remain 2m distance from school staff
- Keep your child off school if they present with any COVID-19 symptoms and organise a test – inform the school of this
- Keep your child off school if anyone in the household or support bubble presents with any COVID-19 symptoms and organise a test – inform school of this
- Children's reading books to come into school on Friday so they can be left for 48hours prior to being changed the following Monday. Please note, if your child's book does not come to school on a Friday, it may not be possible to change their book until the next Monday.

Class Closure

In the event a positive test within a class bubble, the class bubble will close and will have to isolate for 10 days. The next working day will be allocated to the teacher to prepare and organise remote learning. Your child will then commence a mixture of live lessons and prepared work through online platforms or paper based work.

Pupil Isolating

If your child has to isolate and therefore will miss learning taking place in class, please contact the school office. You will be asked a series of questions and then this information will be given to the class teacher. Remote learning will be organised for your child within a 48-hour period. Remote learning will likely be a mixture of live lessons and prepared work through online platforms or paper based work.

School Closure

In the event of school closure because of COVID-19, remote learning will commence. This will be a mixture of live lessons and prepared work through online platforms or paper based work. At this stage, it is likely the school will also offer critical worker and vulnerable children provision.

Primary School Mass Testing

At this stage, mass testing for asymptomatic children is starting within secondary schools. At this time, I am unsure what mass testing would look like in a primary school. Again, when I know, I will communicate this with you.

Separate News!

Snow – if the school has to shut for snow, this will be communicated via School Spider app, email, school website and radio.

PE Days – please remember that PE days have now changed. This has been detailed on the last two newsletters.

School Dinners – If you have not done so already...please select your child's meal choices through ParentPay.

We thank you in advance for adhering to the COVID-19 measures at this time. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to make contact.

On behalf of Team St. Francis, we look forward to welcoming all of the children back into school tomorrow (5th January).

Many thanks,

J Kewley

Mr James Kewley

Headteacher