



Durham Road
Houghton Le Spring
Tyne & Wear
DH5 8NF
Wednesday March 3rd 2021

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 8th March after another national lockdown. We are all very excited at the prospect of having a full school once again but understand that there may still be some questions around the full reopening. I am sending out this advice sheet to help you to feel prepared.

When does my child start and finish school?

The timings of the day are as follows:

Year Group	Time	Entry Point	Outside area
R	8:50am-3:10pm	Pedestrian Gate	Reception Yard
1	8:30am-3:00pm	Pedestrian Gate	Infant yard
2	8:40am-3:20pm	Pedestrian Gate	Infant yard
3	8:50am-3:10pm	Vehicle Gate	Car park
4	8:40am-3:20pm	Vehicle Gate	Car park
5	8:30am-3:00pm	Vehicle Gate	Junior yard
6	8:50am-3:20pm	Pedestrian Gate	Junior Yard

We maintain the expectations that were put in place in autumn term around drop offs and collections.

It is very important that these timings are adhered to. Please arrive at school for the designated time. The class doors will be opening at the given times; you should queue up on the markers shown as you wait for your child to go in to class. The children must not be playing on the yard whilst

waiting to go in to school. Children from Year Three upwards must be dropped off at the school gates and walk in to class on their own. They should be dropped off at their designated time, minimising the time they spend on the yard before entry.

Lessons will begin at the time given; it is essential that children attend on time so as not to miss out on learning.

If siblings have different start times, we ask that you bring them all for the earliest time and they will be allowed into their classroom.

When waiting on the yard or at the gate to collect children, please observe social distancing.

The children will be dismissed at their given time; this may mean that some of you have to wait for siblings.

I appreciate your understanding with this and will be continually reviewing how this programme is working.

Does my child need to wear uniform?

All children must be in school uniform. Government Guidelines state that normal washing procedures are adequate. Uniform should be washed regularly but this does not necessarily mean daily for all items.

Can my child have a school dinner?

School meals are fully operational. Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 will be eating their lunch in the school hall. Children in KS2 will be eating lunches in class. We will be asking children to order their school meal at the beginning of each day to allow for food to be brought to them.

What can my child bring to school?

Everything that is brought into school will stay with your child throughout the day; it is important that they only bring what is essential. All children must bring a coat and a water bottle. Water bottles must be filled at home and should go home at the end of each day to be washed and refilled.

Packed lunches will remain with the children in class.

Usual homework procedures will be in place from March 8th.

On the designated PE day, your child must come to school wearing their PE kit. This must be in line with the school uniform policy. They may wear jogging trousers or leggings in place of shorts. They should wear their school jumper over the t-shirt if necessary. The children will stay in their PE kit for the full day so there is no need for them to bring a change of clothes.

Children must not bring any stationery or toys from home. All equipment will be provided.

Are extra curricular clubs running?

At the moment, we are not running any extra-curricular clubs. Music tuition for guitar (Y6) and violin will resume with Mr McClew and Mrs Wise (Y5 and 6). We will be introducing music tuition for other year groups and extra curricular clubs as soon as possible.

Does my child need to wear a mask?

At the moment, there is no requirement for children to wear masks. Adults in school will be wearing masks when in communal areas around school and may choose to wear masks within the classroom.

Will my child be able to play?

Play time is a vital part of school life and the children will all still have normal playtimes. The main difference is that playtimes are staggered so the children will not be mixing with other classes during this time.

How do I contact the class teacher or other school staff?

Teachers are able to be contacted over Class Dojo or through the school office. We ask that you do not come into the school office unless it is absolutely necessary. All enquiries can be sent to office@stmichaelscatholicschool.co.uk Payments can be made through the City of Sunderland payment system.

Class Dojo is an excellent forum for communication but this should be limited to general queries. As always, if you have a concern which needs discussion, please ask the class teacher for a telephone appointment.

Does my child have to come back to school?

In short, yes. The normal attendance procedures apply from Monday 8th March. After such a long time away from school, it is natural that both you and your child may be apprehensive about returning. However, systems are in place to minimise risk and it is vital that the children get back to school.

The systems we have in place to minimise risk in school proved to be effective in autumn and spring. It is vital that we all continue to adhere to the measures put in place.

There seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel, but Covid-19 is still very present throughout the country; we must not be complacent, as we all have a role to play as we move into the next phase of the lockdown and the gradual relaxation of restrictions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. M. Wilson