



St. Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher – Mr K. Landrum – BEd (Hons) NPQH

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Arrangements from September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are enjoying a lovely summer holiday. As the new term approaches and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Thursday 2 September (Nursery – Monday 6 September) I am now in a position to inform you about the arrangements for the new term.

We do have to continue to be mindful that we are still in a Pandemic and therefore whatever measures and procedures we put in place, my priority as Headteacher is to ensure that we stay as safe as we possibly can. Therefore our whole school risk assessment has been updated and a copy of this will be shared on our school website in September.

Timings of School Day

There will be no staggered starts or ends at the school day. The school day will start at 8.55 am for all children. Children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 will finish at 3.05 pm and children in Key Stage 2 will finish at 3.10 pm

Entry and Exit

Children in Nursery and Reception will use the Foundation Stage gate entrance to enter and leave school.

Children in Key Stage 1 will be dropped off and picked up from the main playground. In the mornings you can simply drop off your child and they can walk into school. In the afternoon you can wait in the school playground.

Year 3 and Year 4 children will be dropped off and picked up at the school car park entrance. In the mornings you can simply drop off your child and they can walk into school. In the afternoon you can wait in the car park area.

Year 5 and Year 6 children will be dropped off and picked up from the main playground. In the mornings you can simply drop off your child and they can walk into school. In the afternoon you can wait in the school playground. Children who wish to walk home on their own will have to have a walking home pass from the School Office.

Can I please encourage you not to park directly outside the school and to be mindful of our residents? Please continue to use the Tesco Car Park over the road and walk to the school.

Visiting the School

If you need to pick up your child for an appointment or you need to bring something into school please use the School Reception Office, but we ask that only one parent at a time is in school and Mrs Roach our Office Manager will remind you of this.

Lunchtimes

We will be reverting back to using the school hall for lunchtimes using the same routines as we did before COVID. However there will be more intense cleaning in the hall during the lunch time.

After School Clubs

We are pleased to be able to offer a Sports After School Club Monday – Thursday and I will send separate information out about this.

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Breakfast Club

Breakfast club starts at 7.45am and will be back in the school hall. Parents and carers are asked to bring their child into school to sign them in each day as they did pre lockdown, please note that children cannot attend the Breakfast Club unless they are signed in by an adult. One of the staff from Breakfast Club will be at the door to welcome the children in. There will no longer be a dropping off service at the school gate.

Uniform including PE uniform

The School's Uniform will remain the same. Children will be expected to wear their PE Uniform on the days they have PE. Your child's Teacher will let you know which day this is. From September, all children must wear either the school's PE kits or black shorts and a plain white t-shirt. They are not allowed to wear branded PE items. Please see the uniform section on the website for more details:

Snacks

Children in Foundation/Key Stage 1 are provided each day with a piece of fruit so do not need to bring in anything else other than their packed lunch box, if applicable.

Children in Key Stage 2 may bring a piece of fruit into school if they wish to do so.

We encourage all children to bring in a water bottle each day into school. Please can you ensure you child's name is on the water bottle and on all of their school uniform.

Bubbles and Self-Isolation

From Monday 16 August there will be no need to self-isolate as a close contact if you have been double-vaccinated.

Children also do not need to isolate due to contact at that point, this means that we should not have to close 'bubbles.'

Children who are positive with Covid will still need to isolate but this will not affect the remainder of the children in their class. This means we no longer need to keep the children in consistent groups, known as 'bubbles.' If someone in your family household has Covid, other than the child, the advice is that the remainder of the household should have a PCR Test and if the test is negative the child should come into school.

Hand Hygiene

We will continue to ask children to wash their hands regularly and will continue to provide hand sanitiser; the children and staff have got into good habits with this so we want to continue this into the winter months to reduce the risk of more viruses spreading.

Face Coverings

Staff and adults will no longer be required to wear a face covering on site, although some may feel more comfortable wearing one, may be vulnerable or may not have had the vaccine and this should be respected.

I hope that this information clarifies the arrangements for September. All the arrangements in this letter are potentially subject to change should the local area see a rise in cases; we might be asked to go back to the current 'bubble' arrangements and timings for school for a short period of time. We really hope this isn't the case, but we would be able to respond quickly if that situation if it arises.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr K. Landrum

Headteacher

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