



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

## **FULL RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2021**

This letter is to give you all the information you need in relation to the full re-opening of school to all pupils on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Although I am delighted to be welcoming back our pupils to school – we have really missed them – I am openly questioning the Executive's decision so late in the day with really insufficient notice to schools. Re-opening a school is like turning a large ship...it takes a little time. However, my staff team are already working their socks off to prepare for a full return. Please work with us as I know you always do. 😊

So...here goes...

- All children in Nursery to Primary 7 should attend school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- Children should attend school in full school uniform as much as possible. If you require additional uniform, however, have been unable to purchase them due to shops being closed then please have your children come to school in clothing as close to school uniform colour as possible.
- All previous Covid-19 risk mitigation measures remain in place and **must** be followed in order to allow us to open safely. These are outlined in the box below:

### **Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Measures**

#### **Staggered Start and Finish Times**

#### **SCHOOL ARRIVAL**

**9:00am – 9:10am – following year groups and siblings**

P7 – Main entrance (Mrs Ritchie's office)

P5 – Back playground doors (come into school from Coronation Road)

P3 – Side door. (Just past Mrs Ritchie's office on the left hand side)

P1 – P1 Door

**9:15am – 9:25am – following year groups and siblings**

P6 – Main entrance (Mrs Ritchie's office)

P4 – Back playground doors (come into school from Coronation Road)

P2 – Side door. (Just past Mrs Ritchie's office on the left hand side)

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## Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Measures continued

### LEAVING SCHOOL (MONDAY TO THURSDAY)

2pm – P1  
2pm – P2  
2:10pm – P3  
2:20pm – P4  
2:30pm – P5  
2:40pm – P6  
2.50pm – P7

### LEAVING SCHOOL (FRIDAY)

1.10pm – P7  
1.20pm – P6  
1.30pm – P5  
1.40pm – P4  
1.50pm – P3  
2.00pm – P2  
2.00pm – P1



#### **EXCEPT FOR FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

As this is the last day before our Easter Holidays, as usual, we will be finishing on a half day with staggered finishing times as outlined below:

P7: 11.40am	P6: 11.50am	P5: 12.00pm
P4: 12.10pm	P3: 12.20pm	P2: 12.30pm
P1: 12.30pm		

- Government guidelines are very clear – parents and visitors must not enter the school building as far as possible and it is important that parents / carers keep 2m apart from each other on the playground and do not congregate on or outside school grounds. Please make your way into the school grounds and leave as quickly as possible.
- All parents / carers must wear a face covering when on school grounds. Can I say a HUGE THANKS to the school community for being so compliant with this guidance so far. 😊
- On their first day back, children should only bring into school the items they had been asked to provide at the start of the year and many of these items will already be in school since before Christmas. Again, all these items will be left in school and will not travel home with the child on a daily basis. Please do not buy large pencil cases. Please only send your child into school with a plain plastic pencil case that can be easily wiped clean.
- **Coats** – as always, parents are asked to send their child(ren) into school with a coat. Coats will be placed in our school cloakrooms throughout the school day.





## Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Measures continued

- **SCHOOL BAGS** - Children will be allowed to bring school bags into school. This will only be a means to allow us to send letters, homework etc home in a safe manner. **STAFF WILL, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, NOT TOUCH A CHILD'S SCHOOL BAG.** School bags will not enter the classroom and will remain on your child's coat hook in our cloakrooms. Children can bring their school planner / homework diary to and from school in their school bag. Wipes will be made available in classes for children to wipe their planners / homework diaries when they come into school each morning.
- **LUNCH BOXES** – Previous guidance remains unchanged. Children should not bring lunch boxes into school. Children should bring their snack and lunch in a fully disposable bag. This bag will remain on their coat hook, in our cloakrooms, and will be placed in the bin at the end of lunchtime.
- **School Lunches** - Our canteen will continue to provide hot lunches. School lunches cost £2.60 per day. Payment must be made on a Monday and all monies must be sent into school **in an envelope clearly marked with your child's names, amount enclosed and days they intend on taking a school lunch.** Please be advised, as with the Autumn Term, no change can be given and no monies can be carried forward. If an over payment is made we will assume that the overpayment is a donation to school fund.
- **Snack Service** –Our snack service will continue. Snack costs £3 per week and must be paid on a Monday morning. All monies must be sent into school **in an envelope clearly marked with your child's names and amount enclosed.** Please be advised, as with the Autumn Term, no change can be given and no monies can be carried forward. If an over payment is made we will assume that the overpayment is a donation to school fund.
- **PE Kits** – Full PE kits should be sent into school with all children on the first day back. Again, if you require a new PE kit and cannot purchase because uniform shops are closed, please send your child into school with a PE kit as close to the PE kit colour as possible (Plain white t-shirt and plain black shorts).
- **Water Bottles** – Water bottles may travel to and from school. They will remain in your child's classroom throughout the day. Please be advised that, due to hygiene issues, **water bottles cannot be refilled during the school day.**
- **School Entrance / Car Park** – The school will continue to operate a one way system for dropping off and collecting children. Parents and children should enter via the pedestrian gate on Coronation Road and follow the one way signs by exiting the school via the car park gate on Coronation Road. This will happen at the beginning and end of the school day. At all other times, when foot traffic is low, parents and carers may enter and exit via the pedestrian gate, allowing for social distancing if another visitor passes. **THE SCHOOL CAR PARK WILL NOT BE ACCESSIBLE FOR ANY PARENT / VISITOR AT THE BEGINNING OR END OF THE SCHOOL DAY.** This is due to the car park gate being used as the pedestrian exit. Please do not attempt to gain entry to the school car park. It is strictly for staff only.





## Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Measures continued

- **Good Hygiene** - Our children and staff are encouraged to wash their hands for the recommended twenty seconds (easy way to measure: sing Happy Birthday twice), before leaving home, on entry into class, and at regular intervals throughout the day (including, but not limited to, eating/drinking, using the toilet). Paper towels will be provided in classes and our toilets have hand driers to ensure adequate drying of hands to prevent infection. Parents should encourage our children to use them. Handwashing posters are on all toilet doors and on all classroom doors to act as a reminder.

Hand sanitiser will be available at all main entrance doors and hand wash will be available in all classrooms and everyone is encouraged to use it as they pass. Depending on the age of your children, parents can send children in with their own hand sanitiser / wipes if they wish. Please ensure that this sanitiser is appropriate for any sensitivities your child may have.

Disposable tissues are available in each room for both staff and children to use although please send your child in with their own packet of tissues. Children and staff should sneeze/cough into tissues (never into hands), adhering to the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' guidance. Used tissues should be put into the bin immediately after use and children should wash their hands afterwards. Children will be reminded not to touch their face (eyes, mouth, nose) with hands that are not clean. Please remind your child(ren) of this at home.

- **Unwell Children** - It is vitally important that parents keep their children home from school when they are experiencing any symptom of the Coronavirus ie a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste and smell. Children who are ill at all, should not be sent to school and they will be isolated and sent home immediately if they are found to be ill or become ill during the school day to give our staff and parents confidence that our school is a safe and healthy place to learn and work, especially during current restrictions. We may appear fussier about this than normal, especially for working parents, but we ask for your patience and understanding in advance.

## BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

Unfortunately, due to government instruction, we are unable to operate our breakfast club or afterschool club at this time. We hope to be able to reopen this provision as soon as possible.





## Victoria Primary School & Nursery Unit

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That's it...for now at least. Thank you very much for taking the time to refresh your memory of all our Covid-19 risk mitigation measures. I'm sure you agree that we have taken as many precautions as possible in order to keep our school environment as safe as possible.

Although the nationwide outlook on Covid-19 is really promising, with low infection rates and an increase in the numbers vaccinated, please do not be complacent. I want our school to remain open to all pupils for as long as possible, without the need to close class bubbles. Continue to work with us, implementing all the measures outlined above, and I am confident we can have a really positive Summer Term and end to this school year.

### EASTER DISCO INFORMATION

As all children will be back to school next week we are going to run our Easter Discos. These discos will run in the same way as our Christmas Discos and children will take part in their class bubble.

**There is NO cost to the disco and children can wear non-uniform on their disco day.** Glow sticks can be purchased at a cost of 50p each on the day of your child's disco.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Primary 1, 2 and 3 Discos

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – Primary 4, 5 and 6 Discos

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – Primary 7 Discos

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr C. Fulton  
Principal