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4 September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Arrangements for September 2020

I am writing to you to welcome you back to our new school year 2020/21 and to confirm the starting arrangements. As you will already be aware, in order to comply with Government guidance, we have had to make some changes to our usual routines and practices. I wrote to you about these changes in July at the end of last term in the hope that we would be able to fully re-open in September. I am now in a position to confirm these changes in arrangements.

Please note, although we are putting many measures in place to follow Government guidance to lower the risk of infection, I feel that I need to make parents aware that although these measures lower the risks, I cannot guarantee that all risk is removed.

You will know from previous letters last term that children will be returning to school in September to the comfort of their previous classroom and Teacher for two weeks. This is to help all children to return to school feeling confident that they know what they are returning to. During these first two weeks Teachers will be concentrating on transition activities and personal, social and emotional wellbeing.

Attendance

During the partial closure of schools, the Government made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. From September, school attendance will become mandatory again meaning that it is a legal requirement for your child to attend school.

Dropping off/picking up

In order to stagger the arrival and departure times of children, we have made some changes to the times and entry and exit points for the start and end of the school day. Children will need to line up - socially distanced - with their parent outside the relevant entry point. Children will be greeted by a member of staff and directed to their classroom. **Children will need to enter the school unaccompanied as no parents will be allowed beyond the double yellow line markings or inside the school building.** If a child is unsettled or upset, we will ask the parent to move to the back of



St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School, Padgate Lane, Padgate, Warrington WA1 3LB Tel: 01925 813015 Fax: 01925 820545

Head Teacher: Helen T Lennon

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the line with the child while they settle them and try again. **Members of staff will support and encourage the children to come into school but will not be able to physically bring a child into school.** Please talk positively to your child about saying goodbye to you at the school gate – the quicker the parent can depart, the easier it will be for the child. Please be assured that once the children are in school, they will be well looked after, they will settle quickly and be happy.

If you have children attending school in different year groups, please line up at the time and entrance point of your youngest child. The siblings will enter the building together, with the older child(ren) walking straight to their own classroom – they must not enter the classroom of their younger sibling(s).

At the end of the day, parents should line up - socially distanced - at their designated exit points and children will be released one at a time as each parent reaches the front of the queue. Siblings will exit together at the latest time for that family eg if a child is in Y2 with a sibling in Y5, both children will leave at 3.10pm.

In order for the start and end of the school day to run as smoothly as possible, please adhere to these timings:

Class	Entry and Exit point	Arrival Time	Home Time
Rec	Infant door	8.55-9.00am	3.10pm
Y1	Infant door	8.45-8.50am	3.00pm
Y2	Rear hall door	8.45-8.50am	3.00pm
Y3	Junior gate	8.45-8.50am	3.00pm
Y4	Rear hall door	8.55-9.00am	3.10pm
Y5	Junior gate	8.55-9.00am	3.10pm
Y6	Junior gate	9.00-9.05am	3.15pm

Please note: the above refer to year groups the children will officially be in from September i.e last year's Reception children will enter as Year 1 through the infant door at 8.45am; last year's Year 2 will enter as Year 3 through the junior gate at 8.45 etc.

We ask that parents exit the car park quickly at the start and end of the school day to avoid congestion and help us with our social distancing. If possible we ask that one adult only accompanies the child to school (younger siblings who cannot be left at home can also be brought



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to school). To avoid congestion on the car park it would help if parents and children can walk to school wherever possible. We also ask that children to not bring bikes and scooters as these cannot be accommodated at this time.

Class 'bubbles' and social distancing

Children will be in class bubbles of approximately 30 children. Classrooms are arranged in a more formal style with all children sitting in pairs in forward facing desks. Children will not be expected to maintain social distancing but adults in school will be required to keep distance as they will be working across the bubbles in school.

Lunch

Lunch will be eaten in classrooms. School meals will be available initially as cold packed lunches and these will be delivered to the classroom. As we move through the autumn term, hot meals may be introduced. For junior children, payment for these should be made in advance on ParentPay. If you wish to provide a packed lunch for your child, please avoid items which are tricky for the child to manage by themselves eg Tupperware pots, oranges, drinks cartons etc. As the children will be eating in classrooms, please also avoid messy items such as yoghurts and grated cheese.

Uniform

From September, full school uniform will resume.

We will not be asking PE kits to remain in school. Two days per week, on the days children have PE, they can come to school in their outdoor PE kit (dark blue/black joggers, dark blue/black sweatshirt or tracksuit top, white t-shirt and trainers). PE shorts can be worn underneath jogging bottoms. PE days are as follows:

Class	PE days
Rec, Y1, Y2 and Y6	Tuesday and Thursday (week commencing 14 th September)
Y3, Y4 and Y5	Wednesday and Friday (week commencing 14 th September)

Extra-curricular provision

During the autumn term, we will not initially be able to offer our early doors reading club or after-school clubs. We have been notified by Livewire Swimming that although pools will be re-opening, school swimming sessions will not be offered in the first autumn half term. Arrangements on early doors, after school clubs and swimming sessions will be reviewed as the term progresses.



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WASPs will be running after school provision and will be collecting children from St Oswald's at 3.15pm. WASPs can be contacted directly on 01925 818689 or alternatively by email amy.thompson@waspschildcare.co.uk

Hygiene

Children and staff will sanitise their hands as they enter the school building and will wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including before and after eating. Tables, sinks and other surfaces which are touched frequently will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. The school will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day and deep-cleaning will take place weekly.

Communication and school office procedures

We will continue to communicate with parents via the school website, app, text message and e-mail. The website is your main resource for information so please check the 'Return to School 2020/21' page (under the 'Home' tab on the website) and class pages on a regular basis to ensure you are kept up to date. Prompts will be sent via the school app. If you do not already have the app on your mobile device, we would strongly recommend that you download it. Instructions on how to download the app are attached to the end of this letter.

We will not be able to permit parents into the school building except in exceptional circumstances – in such exceptional circumstances we ask that a face covering is worn. If you have a query for the school office, please call on 01925 813015 or alternatively e-mail stoswalds_primary@warrington.gov.uk. If you have a query for your child's Teacher, please contact them via the teacher-parent e-mail addresses. Parents and Teachers found these e-mails to be very helpful and they will remain live in the autumn term from Monday 7th September.

eyfs@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
y1@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
y2@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
y3@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
y4@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
y5@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
y6@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
assistanthead@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk
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To help our communications between school and home throughout this academic year, we have launched our own private YouTube channel which we hope will strengthen our home school communication links. If you check out the links on our website, you will find some staff videos for the children to welcome them back to school. The videos are to let the children know we are really looking forward to seeing them all again on Monday.

I am sure you appreciate that as our country still remains in this difficult time, these changes are necessary to ensure our school is as safe as possible for all our children, families and staff. I hope we can continue to work together in this new academic year to implement these changes for the safety of all.

We very much look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 7th September and having a happy, safe, learning time together.

Assuring you of my best attention at all times.

Yours sincerely,

Ms H T Lennon,
Head Teacher



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 **ourschoolsapp**

School Communications

The school has a website and also a school app. The website provide a wealth of information about the school including term dates, diary dates, newsletters, uniform, school meals and more. The school app provides quick links to relevant pages of the website. The app is also an efficient way for us to send general messages and reminders to parents therefore we strongly advise that you download this app to your mobile device – personal messages specific to your child will be sent by text and/or e-mail.

Instructions for downloading the school app:

1. Using your device (iPad, iPhone, smart pad, tablet or android phone), visit the relevant marketplace for your product (Apple Store or Google Play).
2. Search for '**OurSchoolsApp**' and download the app.
3. Once downloaded, use the search bar within the app and enter the postcode or the name of the school (WA1 3LB).
4. Hit the search button.
5. Once you see the school name displayed, just touch the screen on the school name.
6. Confirm your choice by pressing 'OK'.
7. You will now be presented with the correct app for our school which contains news, information, calendar events, contacts and any other relevant details.



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