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4 March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Re: Arrangements for March 2021**

I am writing to you to welcome you all back to school next Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and to confirm the starting arrangements. As you will already be aware from my letter in last Friday's newsletter the arrangements in place will be very similar to the autumn term. Our arrangements are following and in line with the latest DFE guidance.

We are delighted that schools will be fully open again next week and that national and local data is very positive, indicating falling numbers of new infections and deaths due to Covid 19 and rising numbers receiving the vaccine. Although the data is very positive, we are still as a nation journeying through this pandemic and therefore our school Governors are adamant that we continue to proceed with an abundance of caution to do our very best to keep everyone safe. 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 once again that although these measures lower the risks, I cannot guarantee that all risk is removed.

The children returned in September after a long absence and settled into their new way of working quickly and impressed us all. I am confident that the children will return this time with the same ease and I am hopeful that due to the increased contact and communications via google classrooms during this lockdown the children will have even greater confidence returning to their Teachers and class work, will settle in quickly and will make a smooth transition from their remote learning to class learning. Teachers will once again in addition to looking at children's attainment and gaps in learning be spending time bringing the class back together socially and focusing on their emotional and mental wellbeing. Children who are feeling secure and happy make great learners!

**Attendance**

Once again from the 8<sup>th</sup> March, school attendance will become mandatory meaning that it is a legal requirement for your child to attend school.



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

**Head Teacher:** Helen T Lennon

**e.mail:** stoswalds\_primary@warrington.gov.uk or h-lennon@supanet.com

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### Dropping off/picking up

We will be returning to a staggered start and end of day as we did in September to ensure social distancing can happen and avoid congestion on the carpark. Slight amendments have been made to the start and end of day times and the entry and exit points for some classes. 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 coming into school, we will ask the parent to move to the back of 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	8.55am	3.10pm
Y1	Rear hall door	8.45am	3.00pm
Y2	Rear hall door	8.50am	3.10pm
Y3	Junior gate	8.45am	3.05pm
Y4	Rear hall door	8.55am	3.15pm
Y5	Junior gate	8.50am	3.10pm
Y6	Junior gate	8.55am	3.15pm



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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 to school). If parents of older children feel it absolutely necessary to wait when children are lined up and the member of staff is present, we ask that you remain socially distanced and do not block the passageway between the carpark and the social club. Members of the public and parishioners use this passageway and it is important that they can pass freely and safely.

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 generally forward facing desks. Children will not be expected to maintain social distancing in class, 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 with hot and cold options. 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 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will revert to full school uniform on three days a week and outdoor PE kits twice a week on PE days. PE kits will not remain in school. PE kit must be plain 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 will take place outside and the days are as follows:

<b>Class</b>	<b>PE days</b>
Rec, Y1, Y2 and Y6	Tuesday and Thursday
Y3, Y4 and Y5	Wednesday and Friday



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### **Extra-curricular provision**

During the spring term, we will not be able to offer our early doors reading club or after-school clubs. Swimming lessons will not initially be available, we will advise parents if they are to be introduced. Review of our provision will be ongoing during the spring and summer term.

If parents require child care 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](mailto: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 COVID page 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.

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](mailto: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 have found these e-mails to be very helpful so far and they will remain live throughout the remainder of this academic year.

[eyfs@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk](mailto:eyfs@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk)  
[y1@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk](mailto:y1@stoswaldscatholicprimary.co.uk)  
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To help our communications between school and home throughout this academic year, we will continue to use our own private YouTube channel which we hope will continue to strengthen our home school communication links. I hope you have enjoyed the videos we have posted so far this academic year, especially our 'mini' Christmas performances. School videos can be found on the website via the school app video link. We will inform parents when new videos are posted.

I am sure you are all as delighted as we are that your children are once again returning to full time on-site education. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for the marvellous job you have done with your children during the lockdown. We are truly grateful for all the time and energy you have given to your children and thank you most sincerely for sharing your knowledge and expertise with them to help them to learn. You were your child's first teachers when you brought them into this world and I believe parents will always remain their child's best Teacher! Thank you.

I look forward to working with you closely for the remainder of this academic year and I trust I can count on your continued support to get it right for all within our school community during these most unusual and difficult times.

We very much look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and once again 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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