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"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

5th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

FULL SCHOOL OPENING FROM MONDAY 8TH MARCH

I hope that this letter finds you and your families all well. We are delighted to be finally reopening on Monday 8th March to all of our wonderful pupils and are very, very excited about seeing you all! The past few months have been extremely difficult for all of us in many ways (again) – it will be good for all of us to begin to return to our regular everyday routines (as far as this is possible).

Home learning is over for now – thank you so much for all of your support and dedication since January in working with school to try to provide ongoing education for all of our children!

Please be assured that all of the protective and control measures which have been implemented by school throughout the pandemic are all still in place and these will continue until it is advised and established that they are no longer necessary.

I have also circulated a letter to parents from Sandwell LA with our school letter.

LATEST COVID DATA:

The latest government data, provided on 3rd March 2021, indicates that the local test data for COVID infection is much higher – more than double - than the national figure:

Rate per 100k resident population: **89.2 (National)**

Rate per 100k resident population: **183.9 (Sandwell)**

We must all keep our guard up and strictly follow all government guidance and legal requirements until the pandemic is over and all restrictions have been lifted.

Please do not leave, or be outside of your home except where it is necessary and please **do not mix with other households indoors or outdoors.**

ATTENDANCE:

School attendance will again be mandatory for all pupils from Monday 8th March. All pupils will be expected to be in school full time and we will be implementing our usual attendance monitoring procedures including home visits as appropriate.

If your child is not able to attend school on any particular day, then please either **phone the school office** or **complete this form** through the school website by **9.15am** on the first day of absence:

[REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE](#)

(This form can also be found by clicking on the link in the '**Latest News**' box on the **homepage** of the school website).

School will then contact you if we require further clarification or evidence for your child's absence.

A child **must not** be sent to school if they are displaying any of the **coronavirus symptoms**:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

COMMUNICATING WITH SCHOOL:

- Parents will not be permitted to enter the building (including the office hatch).
- All home / school communication should take place via phone call or email (there will be no face to face meetings).
- School will continue to communicate with parents via phone, email, texts and the school website.

Please be aware that the home learning email accounts for each class will be deactivated and not monitored from **3.00pm on Friday 5th March**. This will mean that if you wish to make contact your child's class teacher, then you will need to phone or email the school office so that your message can be passed on: headteacher@holyname.sandwell.sch.uk

FACE COVERINGS:

The most recent government guidance has no requirement for primary school pupils to wear face coverings in school.

To reduce the risk of cross-contamination and possible COVID transmission from the incorrect use and disposal of **face coverings** these **are not permitted to be worn by pupils in school**.

If your child does wear a face covering to travel to school, then it is the responsibility of the parent to remove their child's face covering safely before their child enters the school site.

Any parents or visitors entering the school building (by prior agreement) will be required to wear a face covering.

UNIFORM:

Our usual school uniform requirements are expected for all pupils. Our school uniform policy can be viewed on the school website.

We have prioritised outdoor sessions for **P.E.** in the first instance. Please ensure that your child has their **full P.E. kit** in school **at all times** (from Monday 8th March) and a **tracksuit** which can be worn for outdoor P.E. if the weather necessitates this.

PUPILS' BELONGINGS AND EQUIPMENT:

The only items which your child should bring to school are:

- A coat and hat
- P.E. Kit
- A packed lunch (if you have not requested for school to provide your child with a hot meal)
- A reusable water bottle (which is filled up at home and taken home and cleaned every day)
- A fruit snack for morning break (if you wish)

NO OTHER ITEMS SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL.

All clothing and reusable items should **clearly labelled** using your child's full name.

Any water bottles left in school overnight will be disposed of for hygiene control.

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS:

We will be continuing to receive and dismiss pupils by family surname at two separate times.

These staggered times are **absolutely essential** in order to: maintain social distancing by preventing parents and separate pupil year group 'bubbles' from mixing together at the start and end of the school day; help to keep everyone safe while queuing and also to prevent any pupils from mixing in shared toilet areas after entering the school building.

Please move away from the school site entrance and exit as soon as you have dropped your child off as social distancing and clear access to the school site is compromised by loitering at the school gate in the morning. Our staff will fully supervise your children safely into the school building after they have entered the school site.

If we do experience difficulties with pupils and / or parents arriving at school outside of their allocated time, then it may be necessary to stagger the school day further, which is a measure which has not been necessary to date and one that we wish to avoid to prevent any further disruption for parents.

Pupils with a surname starting with **A – K** should be dropped off at **8.40am** and collected at **3.00pm**.

Pupils with a surname starting with **L – W** should be dropped off at **8.50am** and collected at **3.10pm**.

SURNAME	DROP OFF TIME	COLLECTION TIME
A – K	8.40am	3.00pm
L – W	8.50am	3.10pm

Nursery pupils will be dismissed at 11.50am.

Please arrive promptly at your allocated time (**not early**) to enable us to continue to safely stagger entry and exit to the school site. We do not want any parents on the school site before their allocated time (**especially at hometime**) as our priority is the safe dismissal of pupils.

GENERAL REMINDERS:

- Only **ONE ADULT** should bring their child / children to school. As far as possible, please **do not bring any other children with you** who are not attending school.
- Please try to always **collect your own child / children** from school to avoid mixing household bubbles – especially if you are using a car.
- Only arrive at the school premises at your allocated time (**not early or late**). This is **absolutely essential**.
- Parents are asked to observe social distancing (**2 metres**) and not gather in groups at the school gate or on Cross Lane.
- **Y1 – Y6 children can proceed from the Emergency Gate (site entrance) to the main school entrance by themselves** at their allocated time. **Y1 – Y6 parents may leave their child to proceed into school on their own (they will be fully supervised by our staff).**
- **Please do not request to speak with any members of staff ‘at the gate’ or on the playground** as it is essential that all parents (and pupils) enter and exit the school premises as quickly as possible and avoid close contact to try to reduce the potential risk of COVID infection.

You will need to **phone** or **email** the school office to request a telephone conversation if you need to speak to your child’s class teacher or pass on any information.

- Please move away from your child’s dismissal point as soon as they have been handed over and **exit the school site immediately** in order to help with social distancing and allow the flow of movement around the school site to take place safely
- It is absolutely essential that you keep your child / children with you and supervise them closely at all times after they have been dismissed and handed over to you to ensure that safety and social distancing is maintained on the school site.
- No children should be running on the school premises or move off the main path as they leave the premises.
- Parents will not be permitted to enter the building (including the office hatch) without an agreed prior appointment.
- No late drop off or early collection can take place unless it is an emergency.
- The school site will be closed to everyone from **9.00am – 3.00pm** (other than for Nursery parents to collect their children at **11.50am**).

SCHOOL KITCHEN:

Our school kitchen will continue to be fully open and providing hot meals as usual. Pupils in Reception to Year Two are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal. The school provides the option to purchase a weekly hot meal for your child / children in Years Three to Six (unless you are entitled to Free School Meals). The cost is £12.00 per week. Please contact the school office if you have any queries with regard to school meals.

SCHOOL LAPTOPS:

If you borrowed a laptop from school during the lockdown period, please send your child back to school with the laptop on **Monday 8th March**. Please explain to your child that they will need to take the laptop (case and charger) to their own classroom and hand them to their class teacher. Mrs Chapman will then collect them in during the morning.

If you need to inform school of any damage / other concerns, then please use this email address before **Monday 8th March**: technical.support@holyname.sandwell.sch.uk.

N.B. This email account will be deactivated and not monitored from **3.00pm** on **Monday 8th March**.

READING BOOKS:

If you have any reading books from school at home, please return these on **Monday 8th March** along with your child's reading record.

We will send reading books and records home on Monday 15th March. Books should then be returned every Friday so that home reading records can be checked and books can be changed.

Please note, pupils will still have access to Oxford Reading Owl so they can continue to read a range of books during the week and these can be noted in your child's reading record.

HOME LEARNING:

In the event of individual pupils being required to self-isolate due to close contact with a positive COVID case, work will be set daily via Microsoft Teams.

If your child becomes unwell, they will **not** be set any work to complete. This is to ensure that they can rest and recover so that they are able to join us back in school when they are able to.

If your child is absent for non-COVID reasons, school will not be providing work to complete at home.

HOUSEHOLD LATERAL FLOW TEST KITS:

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school pupils

From **1st March 2021**, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Get a Test through your Employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

Take a Test at a Rapid Lateral Flow Test Site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

You may need to book an appointment:

[FIND YOUR NEAREST RAPID LATERAL FLOW TEST SITE](#)

Collect Test Kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. Most collection points are open from **1.30pm** to **7.00pm**. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.

Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.

FIND YOUR NEAREST HOME TEST KIT COLLECTION POINT

Order Home Test Kits Online

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

ORDER RAPID LATERAL FLOW HOME TEST KITS

HELPING HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION:

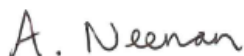
Our before and after-school provision provided by Helping Hands will be available on the school premises.

Please contact Helping Hands directly if you wish to book this provision:

Sam: 07904942281
Michelle: 07737535967
Club Phone: 07806774275
Email: helpinghands.childcare@hotmail.com

Please be assured that we will do everything that we can to make your children feel happy and relaxed as they return to school. We would like to thank you for your cooperation and assistance. All of our staff are looking forward to welcoming our pupils and families back to school on Monday!

Yours sincerely



Mr A. G. Neenan
Headteacher