



St. Ethelbert's R.C. Primary School

Melbourne Road, Deane, Bolton, BL3 5RL
Telephone: 01204 333036
E-mail: office@st-ethelberts.bolton.sch.uk
web-site: www.st-ethelberts.bolton.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs. M. Messham

13th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, all children are expected to return to school on a full-time basis in September. As a school, we have worked extremely hard to provide a safe environment for staff, children and visitors. However, to meet Government guidelines, a number of changes have had to be made to the school's day to day organisation. Since opening to pupils in EYFS, Y1 and Year 6 on June 8th, our new routines have worked well due to the fantastic co-operation of our parents. Now that we are opening more widely, it is important that everyone plays their part in helping our school to run smoothly and in keeping everyone safe.

'Bubbles' or Groupings

The Government advises that reducing the number of contacts between children and staff will help to control infection. Therefore, classes have been arranged into the following groups (or bubbles): Nursery & Reception; Year 1 & Year 2; Year 3 & Year 4 and Year 5 & Year 6. Each class will be taught separately and will not mix with other classes for any classroom activities. However, at lunchtime and for after school clubs, they will be able to mix safely with the children from the other class in their bubble.

At the beginning of term, all parents will receive a leaflet outlining the procedures in the event of a child having either COVID19 symptoms or a positive test. This will also be available on the website. Click on <https://st-ethelberts.bolton.sch.uk/coronavirus-information> to view. Good communication between home and school will help to stop the spread of any infection.

Changes to the school timings

In order to meet the Department of Education's requirements for social distancing and minimising contact, the school day has been extended by 20 minutes. This is to ensure that no learning time is lost due to additional hand washing etc and also to keep different bubbles apart. Year groups will have different start and finish times to ensure that the number of parents on site is reduced.

For **Year 1 and Year 2**, the day will start at **8.30am** and finish at **3pm**.

It is vital that your child arrives on time (but not too early) and leaves promptly at the end of the day. This is to avoid unnecessary mixing of bubbles.

Since June, a one-way system for entering and exiting the site has worked extremely well so we would ask that all parents follow the procedure. For **Year 2** pupils, this is as follows:

- Enter school via the main gate on Melbourne Road. Please DO NOT use the church entrance
- **Year 2** pupils go through the main gate onto KS1 playground and enter school via the office door



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- If a parent comes onto the playground with their child, then they must exit via the green gate at the top of the playground and then through the church gate onto Hawthorne Street
- You may decide to drop your child at the main gate on Melbourne Road and avoid the one-way system altogether
- At the end of the day, **Year 2** pupils will exit via the office door and then through the green gate at the top of the playground.
- Where at all possible, we need to avoid parents gathering on the playground; therefore, please arrive promptly at your designated time. If you have children in other year groups, you **MUST** pick them up in order of their pick up times. Parents cannot wait until the latest pick up time to collect all their children at once as we cannot have groups of children waiting in school to be collected. Neither can children leave class early, as they will miss valuable learning time. **Parents who take advantage of this situation will be liable to charges as outlined in our Attendance Policy.** Visit www.st-ethelberts.bolton.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Attendance-Policy-1.pdf to view policy.

Snack money must be in a sealed envelope marked with your child's name. This will be collected, in a basket, by a member of staff at the main gate. This is because we need to limit the number of parents visiting the office. Consequently, we will be unable to give out change, so either send the correct amount or expect the extra to be rolled over to the following week. Unfortunately, parents will be unable to visit the office at the start and end of the school day.

What pupils need

We need to limit the number of items that children bring into school. The children will need the following:

- A water bottle labelled with their name – this needs to be filled at home
- If on a packed lunch, a lunch box
- A P.E kit, brought into school in the first week – this will be left in school for the half term. Wherever possible, P.E. lessons will take place outside. Therefore, children will need a sweatshirt/tracksuit top, a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a pair of trainers. These will also be left in school. Please do not go to any expense in buying new outdoor kit
- A reading folder – arrangements for home / school reading will be different – details to follow
- If possible, a bottle of hand sanitizer for personal use

Children will NOT be able to wear a face covering in school, as outlined in the Government guidelines.

The Curriculum

During the Autumn term, the curriculum will concentrate on filling the gaps that our children will no doubt have, following such a long period out of school. There will be a particular focus on Reading, Writing, Phonics and Maths; R.E. will also be taught, as well as Science, P.E. Music and P.S.H.E. Other subjects will be introduced as the term and year progress.

After school clubs will be introduced gradually. Parents will have to accept that our offer will be limited at first, as clubs will be allocated to bubbles and not necessarily specific classes. Parents will be informed when clubs are set up for their child.



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Attendance

As stated at the beginning of this letter, ALL children are expected to attend school from **September 7th**. Regular attendance will help your child fill the gaps in their learning. Unauthorised absence of 5 days or more will result in a penalty notice from Bolton Council.

I realise that this is a lot of information to take in and that this way of working is not what we are used to. However, we need to do everything possible to keep all members of our community safe and to avoid any further school closures which would have a negative impact on our children's progress. All new rules and procedures are shaped by the guidance given by the Department of Education and will be in place until further notice.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'M. Messham'.

Mrs Messham
Headteacher