

Saturday 29th August 2020

Reopening Our Lady of the Wayside School – September 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a pleasant summer. We are looking forward to welcoming back your children to school on Wednesday 2nd September for the start of the new academic year. A reminder that all children will return on Wednesday to their previous class teacher, in their previous classroom. Children will 'move up' to their new teacher on Monday 7th September.

At the end of last academic year (July 2020), we issued guidance on how we plan to open and operate school during the autumn term. This document summarises that guidance, provides a general update and includes a few important reminders.

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Section 1: Managing Risk and Creating a Safe Environment

In welcoming back all children in September, we have been asked to minimise the number of contacts that a child has during the school day as well as putting into place strict control measures – both of these measures will reduce the risk of transmission and will enable us to manage the risk effectively.

Our control measures are based on advice from Public Health England. Essential measures include:

- A requirement that children and staff who are ill stay at home and robust systems in place if children or adults become ill during the day.
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene – children must clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual. Good respiratory hygiene is encouraged by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace.

In addition, it is important that contact within school is carefully controlled and managed. We have considered:

- Our procedures for grouping children together and the creation of groups or 'bubbles'.
- How we can avoid contact between different groups of children.
- How we can organise and arrange classrooms to avoid face-to-face contact whenever possible.
- What equipment is required to deliver our school curriculum and when equipment and resources are shared, how these can be cleaned.
- The organisation of staff with staff maintaining distance from children and other staff as much as possible
- Ensuring social distancing rules are in place for parents, particularly at the start and at the end of the school day.

With these measures in place, whilst we cannot eliminate all risk, we do believe it is now safe enough to welcome back all children in September on a full time basis.

Section 2: Organisation of School

2.0 Curriculum

The curriculum is everything that children are taught as part of school life. We welcome and fully support the Government's guidance regarding curriculum planning for September. In line with their expectations, we believe:

- Education is not optional: all children should receive a high-quality education that promotes their development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- Our curriculum must remain broad and ambitious: all children will be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment.

We will not be 'dropping' subjects. Children will continue to be taught all subjects.

2.1 Grouping of children

Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of children and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group.

Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive COVID-19 case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible.

However, the use of small groups restricts the normal operation of schools and presents both educational and logistical challenges. Government's guidance (*Guidance for full opening – schools published 2nd July 2020*) asks schools to maintain consistent groups but to consider increasing the size of these groups to class or year group bubbles.

We will be grouping children into year group bubbles whilst maintaining class groups whenever possible. Year group bubbles will be kept apart from other year groups. We continue to recognise that younger aged children will not be able to maintain social distancing.

Within their year group bubble children may work within different groups where this is of significant educational benefit, for example, children may work in a small group to develop their reading skills.

Within the classroom setting, reducing the amount of face-to-face contact lowers the risk of transmission. We know that this is not always possible in a primary school, particularly when working with younger children, but we will do this when circumstances allow.

Many of the adaptations we made to our classrooms last term (summer term 2020) will remain in place for this term. This includes children seating side-by-side and facing forwards rather than directly facing each other. All classroom adaptations are balanced against the impact on learning and our teachers do have the flexibility to adjust the learning environment if this is required to ensure effective learning can take place.

Different year groups will not be gathering together for collective worship. There will be no school assemblies or liturgies in church. Children will continue with collective worship within their class or year group bubble. We have suspended the opportunity for parents to join their children for collective worship at the end of the school day. We are discussing with Fr Andrew (Our Lady of the Wayside's new parish priest) how children can safely access Mass.

2.2 School Equipment and Resources

Equipment and resources are integral to education in schools. For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, we are providing children with their own resources. Children are allowed to bring in their own individual resources if they wish to supplement the resources provided by school – these resources will need to stay in school.

Classroom based resources, such as bibles, will be used and shared within their group bubble - they will not be shared outside of their bubble unless preventative measures are in place. For example, bibles used by Year 5 children will not be shared with Year 4 children unless they are cleaned meticulously or are left unused for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics).

Outdoor playground equipment will remain closed for the foreseeable future. We currently do not have the capacity to clean this equipment between different bubbles.

We are asking children to limit the amount of equipment they bring into school and to only bring essentials. Children must not, as an example, bring in toys including cards which they swap with their friends. A reminder that children in Reception to Year 2 do not require a sport style bag, their book bag is sufficient.

Finally, it is important children drink plenty of water during the day, dehydration can have a significant impact on learning. Children must have their own water bottle labelled with their name. Children must take this home each night and bring it back full of water the following day. Access to the school water fountains is currently restricted.

2.3 School Uniform

It is expected that all children return to school in their Our Lady of the Wayside School uniform, including wearing black shoes. During the month of September children are allowed to wear their summer uniform- they are expected to wear their winter uniforms from 1st October onwards. Please ensure school shirts and blouses display the school badge. School uniforms do not need to be washed more frequently than normal.

A reminder that haircuts must be appropriate for school.

2.4 Educational Visits

As a school we pride ourselves on the range of enrichment opportunities we offer to our children and these form an important part of our curriculum. Next term, educational visits will only take place if it is safe to do so (appropriate protective measures can be put into place) and we believe this learning cannot be replicated within the classroom setting.

The Year 5 religious retreat to Alton Castle, planned for late October, has been cancelled. We have held back from making a decision regarding the Year 5 residential to Wales and the Year 6 residential to Whitemoor Lakes – both of these take place in the summer term of 2021.

2.5 Arrangements for Physical Education

We will prioritise outdoor sports where possible and will ensure distancing is maintained. Children will be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between groups and contact sports will be avoided. Where possible, each class or year group bubble, will have their own equipment which will not be shared with other groups. Where this is not possible, equipment will be left for 72 hours or thoroughly cleaned.

Indoor swimming pools have now reopened. Swimming lessons for Year 4 children will commence in September.

2.6 External School Clubs and Sport Teams

All external companies who use OLW's facilities for extra curricular activities are currently suspended. We are working closely with these companies to see how these activities can recommence while adhering to the protective measures schools are required to put into place. We will keep you updated.

We have now appointed a PE and Sports Coach (Miss McKen) and we are hoping to provide some school led extra-curricular activities. These will be non-contact sports and will be for small groups of children from within the same class or year group bubble – further details to follow.

Section 3 School Timings and Routines

3.0 Arrangements for the start of the school day

Start time (Y1-Y6)	8:30am
End time (all children)	3:25pm

Please note the earlier start time of 8:30am, this applies from Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 23rd October.

Parents of Nursery and Reception children will be advised of the start times for these children.

Between 8:30am and 9:30am children will be taught by their previous class teacher. This provision is part of our recovery curriculum; what we are referring to as our 'Rainbow Curriculum'. Your child's previous class teacher will spend this time focusing on the key components of the English and maths curriculum, components normally taught and embedded during the summer term.

From Monday 2nd November the school day returns to a 8:55am start (Reception to Year 6).

Children need to be in class at 8:30am for the start of their lessons. Children may arrive at school from 8:15am, this is the time playground gates open. **No one to arrive before this time please.** If you have to queue to enter school please observe social distancing.

If possible, we suggest you stagger your arrival time:

Suggested arrival time	Children with surnames
8:15am	Letters A to D
8:20am	Letters E to M (to Mills)
8:25am	Letters M (from Monaghan) to Y

The carpark drop-off zone remains closed during this period.

Please enter via path adjacent to Kwik-Fit and exit via the school drive. Please maintain social distancing.

We would recommend you consider using the parking facilities at Sainsbury's, this will help ease congestion on the Retail Village road crossing.

Children in Year 1 and Class 2B will enter school via the small pedestrian gate at the front of Class 2B. Children in Class 2S will enter via the pedestrian gate at the front of their classroom. Children will proceed straight into their classrooms where they will be asked to wash their hands.

Children in Years 3-6 will enter school via the school playground. They must enter the school building straight away, they will be asked to wash their hands on entry.

Reception children will also enter school through the playground gates but will enter the school building via the Reception classroom cloakroom door or their classroom door. Children will be helped to wash their hands.

Nursery children will enter Nursery through the Nursery cloakroom door.

3.1 Arrangements for the end of the school day

Arrangements for the end of the school day pose a significant challenge, as we must ensure appropriate social distancing arrangements are in place. Many schools have decided to stagger their end times with different aged children collected at different times.

We will continually review our arrangements for the end of the school day and may have to introduce a staggered system. We will avoid this as we appreciate the significant impact it would have on working parents and will lead to a loss of teaching and learning time.

We considered many different options and believe these arrangements are the safest for everyone and are the easiest, logistical, for school to manage. We recognise that our arrangements may be inconvenient and that collection may take a little longer than they would during 'normal' times – in slang terms you may say our arrangements are 'a bit of a faff'!

The following arrangements are in place:

- Children will wait with their class teacher in their designated class zone. Zones have been created on the playground and on the school carpark:
 - Carpark zones - children in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3.
 - Playground zones –Reception, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.
 - Nursery children to be collected from the front of Nursery. Nursery parents to wait on the pathway.
- Children will be waiting in their zone from 3:20pm and will need to be collected by 3:30pm.
- Parents are able to enter the site at 3:20pm (when all the children are in place in their zones) and parents will move between zones collecting their children. Parents will not be allowed to enter the site before 3:20pm.
- Parents are asked not to congregate on the school site as there will not be space to maintain social distancing.
- Parents must collect their children from the class zones and then quickly exit the school site. This system will only work if parents keep moving

There is no opportunity to stop and talk to class teachers at the end of the school day – it is 'collect and go'. If you need to talk to your child's class teacher please email (office@ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk) or phone school (0121 744 6852).

Please do not arrive until 3:20pm, parents arriving early will pose significant logistical challenges for us. Please enter via the school path adjacent to Kwik-Fit and exit via the school drive.

We are asking for children not to bring their scooters or bikes into school in September. We need time to embed our new systems, we will keep this decision under review.

In order to free up space on the carpark, the majority of school staff will park off site at Porcelanosa. Parking spaces at Porcelanosa will be limited, please do not park at the front of the store. Other local parking facilities include the Retail Park, Sainsbury's and the Marshall Lake Road retail facilities (B&Q/Halfords etc).

There will be no access to the carpark at the beginning or at the end of the school day. This applies to staff, visitors, deliveries and parents who have carpark passes. Please contact the school office if this will create a challenge for you.

3.2 Arrangements for break time and lunchtime

Children will stay in their year group bubbles at all times, year group bubbles are not allowed to mix with other year group bubbles. This applies to break time and lunchtime. The majority of children will eat their lunch in the school hall, the kitchen will only be offering a packed lunch for the time being – we are planning to recommence hot lunches from Monday 2nd November.

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School
Learning and growing together, rooted in Christ

Children will eat their lunch at the following times:

11:30	Reception
11:50	Year 1
12:10	Year 2
12:30	Year 3
12:50	Year 4
1:10	Year 5
1:10	Year 6 (classroom)

During the lunchtime period each year group will have 20 minutes on the playground. The playground equipment will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

In addition to their lunch break, children will have a morning break too. Breaks will be taken as year group bubbles. There will be no morning tuck shop for next half-term, children are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack from home. Morning break times are:

9:45	Reception
10:00	Year 1
10:15	Year 2
10:30	Year 3
10:45	Year 4
11:00	Year 5
11:15	Year 6

Section 4: Questions and Answers

This section is a question and answer section - questions and answers are in no particular order. If you have a question, or query, not on our list please do contact school. We will try our best to help.

Can school guarantee that my child, or a member of staff, will not be infected by COVID-19 if they return to school?

No, we cannot guarantee this, there is no absolute. But we are putting measures to minimise the risk and we believe school is safe. One of our principles for reopening states – *'School must be a safe place. All decisions carry a certain degree of risk but risks must be minimised. Detailed risk assessments will be carried out.'*

How will school ensure there is social distancing? Will school maintain a 2m distance rule at all times?

We know that social distancing is fundamental if we wish to reduce transmission and keep the R number below 1. Previous guidance from the Government stated:

'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years (Nursery and Reception) and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out below:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- regular cleaning of settings*
- minimising contact and mixing*

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.'

www.GOV.Uk publication - Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. 11th May 2020

What hygiene practices will be in place?

Children will be required to wash their hands when they arrive in school and will be required to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day, this includes before they eat and before they go home. Visitors entering school will be kept to a minimum and they will be required to wash their hands before entering the main school building. Anyone arriving at school who are symptomatic will not be allowed into the main school building and they will be asked to leave our site immediately.

In regard to respiratory hygiene, we do ask that children have their own supply of tissues. There will be tissues available in classrooms if required. The children will be taught: *Catch it! Bin it! Kill it!* – please reinforce this slogan at home. Each classroom will have an enclosed pedal style bin for tissues which will be emptied and cleaned during the day and at the end of the day.

What cleaning practices will be in place?

A detailed cleaning schedule has been created to reduce transmission. This includes additional cleaning of classroom furniture and surfaces, additional cleaning of toilets and touch surfaces such as door handles, and the cleaning of resources where these are to be shared.

Will toilets be a place of high transmission?

The latest Government guidance (*Guidance for full opening – schools, 2.7.20*) does not require schools to allocate particular toilets to particular groups of children. Throughout this term (summer term 2020) groups of children have been using a designated toilet. We will continue this practice during the autumn term.

Will school staff be wearing personal protective equipment?

The Government's advice has not changed in this regard. Their advice (*www.GOV.Uk publication - Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. 11th May 2020*) is that the majority of staff in education settings do not require PPE. The guidance does list a very small number of cases where Public Health England believes PPE would be appropriate.

Will staff be wearing face masks? Will children be allowed to wear face masks in school?

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in primary schools. This is a decision supported by Solihull Local Authority. The Government has recently changed its advice regarding face coverings for children in secondary schools. In primary schools, the guidance is face coverings are not required as children and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. The only exception is where a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus and needs direct personal care until they can return home or where staff are unable to maintain a distance of 2m.

The advice regarding the wearing of face coverings is changing on an almost daily basis and we will keep this decision under constant review.

What will happen if my child, or another child, begins to display symptoms?

We will strictly adhere to guidance from Public Health England (PHE). If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, a high temperature or has a loss of taste/smell, they will be sent home and parents will be advised to follow PHE guidance - COVID-19: guidance for households with a possible coronavirus infection guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>).

Where a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to our small meeting room at the front of school where they will be isolated. If they need to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected they will use the visitor toilet. This will then be cleaned and disinfected before being used by anyone else. If the child requires personal care staff will wear personal protective equipment.

Will school engage with the NHS Test and Trace process?

Yes, anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.

You must inform us immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least

10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

What will happen if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school?

We will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work closely with us to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. We are keeping a record of children and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes place between children and staff in different.

We do not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform OLW School immediately, and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'

We will not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children back after a period of self-isolation.

What is happening during the first week of term?

Children return to school on Wednesday 2nd September (excluding our new Nursery and new Reception children). For the first week of term (Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th September) all children will be with their previous class teacher and will be taught in their previous classroom. We hope this helps to reduce children's anxiety for returning to school.

We have arranged for children to have some transition time with their new class teacher on Friday 4th September. Children will 'move up' to their new teacher on Monday 7th September.

Can you please provide some further details regarding the start of the school day and the end of the school day.

Start of the School Day

We will continue to suspend morning drop-off and the school drive will be closed for all vehicles, this applies to the start and the end of the school day and includes all families who currently have a carpark pass. This is because we need to use the school drive as a pathway. A one way pedestrian system will be in operation. To enter school, please use the path adjacent to Kwik-fit and exit via the school drive. On entry to school you may have to queue, please adhere to the floor markings and keep to social distancing rules.

Please note, to minimise the number of adults on the school site we are requesting that only one adult drops and collects. No dogs on site please.

End of the School Day

Ensuring we maintain social distancing between parents at the end of the school day has been a real challenge for us and has resulted in a few sleepless nights!

Our summer term end of day procedures worked well but these would not be appropriate in September– the playground is simply not large enough for parents to maintain social distancing when all children return.

We considered a variety of options, including different groups of children finishing at different times – we ruled this option out as we knew it would be incredibly disruptive for working parents.

After much thought we decided creating class zones on the playground and the carpark was the best option. Children will wait for you in their class zones, children will be in place from 3:20pm. At 3:20pm we will allow parents to enter the site and collect. Parents will walk around the site collecting their children from their class zone. **Parents must keep moving, please do not stop and congregate.** Children will wait in their outside class zone whatever the weather, so please ensure they bring a coat everyday – if it is going to rain it often rains at the end of the school day!

We know there will be a temptation not to stick with our end of day procedures, indeed we know they may seem like 'rather a faff'. We would please ask for your cooperation, these are challenging times for us all and the systems we are introducing are designed to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your understanding.

Will I be able to talk to my child's teacher at the beginning or end of the day?

Sorry, no. If you need to discuss a matter with your child's class teacher please email or phone the school office. Your child's class teacher will either email you back or they will give you a phone. Meetings within school are by appointment only.

Will I receive a fine if I decided not to send my child to school?

It is important children return to school in September. While we are allowed to fine parents for not sending their children to school, this would be the last option. We will work with you and support you to ensure your child is regularly attending school.

Section 5: Letter for Solihull Parents from Louise Rees, Director of Children's Services & Skills in Solihull

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the local authority we are continuing to work in partnership with all schools to ensure they are ready to welcome pupils back in September and wanted to update you about arrangements for schools reopening.

We fully understand that as the start of term gets closer, parents and pupils may have some mixed feelings. Although some pupils have been in school up until the end of the summer term, others have not been back since March. The first half of the coming term will be a period of transition for us all. The government has been clear that attendance is now compulsory and all pupils, except those who have been identified as being extremely vulnerable, should attend school full time. If your child is anxious in any way then we encourage you to speak to your school - who will work with you to ease those anxieties and enable your child to return successfully. You may also find the information and support on the Council webpages helpful, particularly the 'back to school transition guide'. As parents ourselves we do understand that you and your children may be worried and we are here to support you.

Safety measures – how you can help

Schools have taken a number of steps to make sure pupils can return safely. They will have also thoroughly reviewed their health and safety risk assessments and put in place increased health and safety and hygiene measures. We all have a part to play in this. As well as following the arrangements your child's school puts in place, you can also help by:

- Reinforcing with your child the need for good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, which schools will also be doing.
- Continuing to wash hands regularly – this remains one of the best preventative measures against the virus.)
- Not sending your child to school if they, or someone in your household, has symptoms of the virus. Please notify the school immediately in these circumstances.
- Keeping your child at home if you have returned from a country not on the exempt list of low-risk countries and need to self-isolate for 14 days (this can change quickly so check it regularly). Please notify the school with details
- Taking part in the NHS Test and Trace process if your child develops symptoms so that cases can be identified quickly - this means, you should arrange for them to get a test and let their school know the results. You can also call 119, which is the number for the NHS virus testing call centre.

Schools plans, based on Public Health advice, are in place for:

- Managing confirmed cases of the virus
- Making sure that everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual
- Extra cleaning arrangements
- Minimising contact and maintaining social distancing, as far as possible. We continue to ask you as families to support schools with this and maintain social distancing outside of school, including the use of face-coverings where appropriate and avoiding any large social gatherings.
- Normally, staff will not be wearing PPE although schools all have supplies to use in the event of a child becoming unwell at school and for when personal care is being provided. Children should not wear face coverings in school.

It is important to support schools by following the advice set out here and also the wider public health advice and guidance. The arrangements each school makes will be different because no school is the same and plans will differ based on size and layout, the number of pupils, teachers and so on. Schools may have staggered starts, finishes, different lunch and break time arrangements, new hygiene routines and changes to timetables. What they all will have in common is that they are following the protective measures above to ensure your child's school is as safe as possible.

Getting to school

Where possible, children are being encouraged to walk or cycle to school. The return to school after the summer break is always a peak time for traffic congestion and parking problems, so the more families that are able to avoid using the car for the school run, the better. If your child relies on public transport to get to school, and walking or cycling isn't an option, the safer travel guidance for passengers will apply. We have been working closely with Transport for West Midlands to support them in developing their September plans for the public transport network to try to increase capacity. If children travel by a school-only bus, rather than on public transport, the guidance for public transport will not apply. Arrangements will be put in place for minimising contact between children on transport, managing getting on and off, cleaning and other hygiene measures. If your child comes to school by taxi, the taxi companies have been asked to take appropriate action to reduce the risk of infection.

What if there is a case or cases at my child's school?

We know that the virus has not gone away and that we must be prepared for things to change quickly. In Solihull we have detailed plans in place to respond to any cases locally and we are -2- also carefully monitoring developments in our neighbouring councils on a daily basis – we all know that the virus is no respecter of boundaries. The actions schools will need to take in the event of a positive case or cases are mapped out in detail and this information has been shared with your child's school.

Our thanks to you and to our schools

We cannot emphasise enough how proud we are of your child's school and those who lead it. This has been the most challenging of times for so many. At times for schools, it has felt almost impossible, but all schools in Solihull remained open to some pupils over the whole of lockdown, including holidays when this was needed. We do not underestimate how difficult this has been for schools, their leaders and also for you as families – coping perhaps with uncertainties over jobs and income, and supporting your children's learning whilst managing their behaviour, anxieties and how they have been missing their friends. Children and young people leaving their primary or secondary school have missed out on the usual opportunities to celebrate and say their goodbyes. Transition to other schools or further education has also felt very different. You have lived through five very difficult months but now it is time to start the new school year. As we begin to restore a sense of normality to school life in the borough, we are confident that schools in Solihull have done everything they can to welcome pupils back safely and will be ready to react quickly if the situation changes. However, please do contact your school in the usual way if you do have any questions or concerns. We hope you enjoy what remains of the summer break and we look forward to continuing to work closely with our schools to welcome your children back in September.

Yours sincerely

Louise Rees

Director of Children's Services & Skills

Section 6: Child's Guide to Returning to School

*When I go back to school in September, some things will be different
but I'll still be happy and safe with my friends and teachers.*

On the way into school

I will walk 2 metres away from other people on the path leading into school. The tape will help me not to get too close to other people.

I will be greeted by staff at the gate. Mrs Lloyd has a new bubble machine to make me laugh and smile!

I will walk straight into the school building. I will not stay on the playground. A teacher will tell me which door to go through.

Before going to my classroom

I will wash my hands at a sink. A teacher will tell me which sink to use and they will remind me how to wash and dry my hands properly.

I will walk to my classroom and sit down in my seat.

In my classroom

My classroom will have desks arranged in rows.

My teacher will tell me which is my desk. All the desks face forwards.

I will stay at my desk when I am in the classroom. This is my own special space.

My teacher will give me a pencil case with all the pencils and equipment which I will need.

It is kind to share things, but just for now, I will not share my things with other children unless my teacher tells me to.

I will not bring things into school which I do not need. E.g. toys, playing cards.

I will bring in my water bottle every day full of water and take it home every night to clean.



Personal care

If I need to sneeze, I will do it into my elbow or a tissue and then put the tissue in a special pedal bin. Remember...

Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.

If I need to cough, I will cough into my elbow.

I will use the toilet which my teacher tells me to use.

I will wash my hands frequently throughout the day when my teacher asks me to. E.g. before eating a snack.



Break times

I can run around on the playground but I will not play games where I need to touch other people e.g. tig/football.

I will not use the playground equipment

I will talk to my friends at break time.

My teacher will sometimes lead a fitness activity during break.

I will try to keep a distance of 2 metres away from other people, that's like the length of two Golden Retriever dogs standing nose to tail. Just like two of Mrs O'Donnell's dog, Max!



At the end of the day

After an enjoyable day with friends and teachers, my teacher will take me onto the carpark or playground to meet my parent. Only one parent will collect me.

Once collected I will leave school as quickly as I can.

I will walk out of school with my parent staying 2 metres apart from other people.



If I do these things, I will be happy and safe in school.

Section 7

THE RAINBOW CURRICULUM HELPING OUR CHILDREN TO RECOVER



Introduction

Each one of us have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in some way – children, staff and you as parents. We recognise that this is different for everyone. For many of us we will have experienced a form of loss. We believe there are five losses experienced by children:¹

- Loss of routine
- Loss of structure
- Loss of friendship
- Loss of opportunity
- Loss of freedom

Each loss can trigger emotions of anxiety, trauma and bereavement in a child.

As children return to Our Lady of the Wayside School after COVID-19 lockdown, we want them to be happy, feel safe, engage in learning again and fill the gaps in their knowledge. To achieve this goal, we will be implementing a recovery programme which we have called our 'Rainbow Curriculum' and 'Rainbow Learning'. The rainbow has become synonymous with COVID-19 and lockdown as a symbol of hope. Our programme aims to '*reignite the flame of learning in each child*' and recover lost learning. This rebuilding process will require a sustained response and will be different for different children. We know that it is highly unlikely that a single approach will be enough so just like a rainbow, there will be different coloured strands within our curriculum.

Rainbow Curriculum Principles

Our Rainbow Curriculum is based on five key principles. These principles inform each of our Rainbow Curriculum strands.

Principle 1: Creating the right learning environment.

'When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower' Alexander Den Heijer

We can't expect our children to return joyfully, and many of the relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored. We will plan for this to happen, not assume that it will. Every strand of our Rainbow Curriculum will focus on creating environments in which children can learn and flourish.

Principle 2: A curriculum which is responsive to the needs of all children.

We recognise that our current curriculum was designed prior to COVID-19 and lockdown. We will create a modified curriculum which is 'right' for our children today, a curriculum which helps children to recover and retrieve lost learning. We will continue to ensure all children receive a broad and diverse curriculum which is ambitious, challenging and engaging.

¹ Carpenter & Carpenter (2020): A Recovery Curriculum: Loss and life for our children and schools post pandemic.

Principle 3: Working in partnership with families.

We recognise the invaluable role of parents in helping their children to recover. We will work in close partnership with you, our parents, to ensure you know how you can support with your child's recovery.

Principle 4: Developing a personalised approach.

We believe we are all different and we learn in different ways. We all have different strengths, different worries and different challenges. Our Rainbow Curriculum is designed to be responsive to the different learning needs of all our children. We aim to make the skills for learning explicit to our children so as to reskill and rebuild their confidence as learners.

Principle 5: Providing children with time and space recover.

We have high expectations and will support children to recover as quickly as possible but we know that children will need time and space. For some children the recovery period will last for a prolonged period of time. We will not set arbitrary dates and will continue with our Rainbow Curriculum for as long as it is required.

Rainbow Curriculum - Strands

Rainbow Red Strand – Reopening Phase

Primarily, in this strand, the curriculum takes into account the mental well-being of children. The losses children have experienced can trigger the emergence emotionally of anxiety, trauma and bereavement in any child. There is a need for compassionate teaching.

Rainbow Orange Strand – Whole Class Approach (7th September to 22nd October)

This phase is focused on children revisiting their current curriculum (academic year 2019-2020) and embedding knowledge lost because of lockdown. This strand will be delivered between Monday 7th September and Thursday 22nd October, 8:30am until 9:30am.

The 'Rainbow Orange Strand' will be taught by your child's current class teacher (academic year 2019-2020). We believe this teacher is in the best position in September to know the gaps in your child's learning journey and, as they know the children best at this time in the school year, they can continue to meet the children's social and emotional needs.

Our orange strand curriculum will be underpinned by 4 key principles:

Creative - The ancient Chinese proverb reinforces the need for learning to be creative. 'Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I'll remember, involve me and I'll understand.' Hands-on learning engages pupils on a deeper level and in turn helps them to retain knowledge. For example, song and rhyme are a successful method to retain and embed knowledge.

Active - Research shows that Incorporating physical activity like star jumps or running on the spot during academic lessons can create a memorable learning experience, helping children to learn more effectively. Rainbow learning will include physical exercise and activities. These might include using movement such as clapping to signify whether a fact is true or false in a lesson, or jumping on the spot a certain number of times to answer a maths question or when teaching new vocabulary using actions to relate to a word.

Knowledge based - Children's learning was ended abruptly at the beginning of the pandemic, as a result there will gaps in learning and knowledge that will need to be supported. Children will co-construct learning to reinforce the key **basic skills** of mathematics, reading, writing spelling and grammar. The planning of the curriculum will support a steady development of the learning that has been missed.

Enjoyable - Ultimately, we want children to enjoy Rainbow learning with their Rainbow children. We want them to develop a positive attitude to learning, re-engaging them with the learning process once again. We

want children to understand that the 'pot of gold' at the end of the rainbow is achievable i.e. they can regain lost knowledge and bridge the gap between their previous curriculum and the new curriculum and to once again feel like confident, successful learners.

We are calling these our CAKE principles!

Role of Assessment

Assessment will be a continuous process throughout the teaching of the Rainbow Curriculum enabling us to build a clear and accurate picture of an individual child's learning needs and knowledge gaps.

The information and knowledge gained from assessments will be used to inform and shape future Rainbow teaching and your child's Rainbow learning.

There will be additional strands within our Rainbow Curriculum, these will include more targeted support with small groups or individual children. Some of these strands will run simultaneously. We are awaiting further Government guidance and will update you in due course.

A key element of our Rainbow Curriculum will be working in close partnership with you.