

# St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School



Avenue Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8ED  
Tel: 0121 554-5069 Head Teacher: Mrs M M Stanley  
Fax: 0121 554-1768 BEd(Hons), NPQH  
Email: enquiry@staugust.bham.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am sending this letter to you all so that you are aware of how we are welcoming some children back to school from this week. It is quite a long letter but I do want to share important details.

Firstly, on behalf of all the Staff and Governors, I would like to extend my condolences to those families who have lost loved ones to the virus. Be assured that we pray for you and your families in school and will do our best to support your children when they return.

We are beginning to welcome pupils back into school this week, starting with a small group of children whose parents are key workers plus small groups in Reception Class and Y1. On 15 June, some Y6 pupils will join us.

Please find below some key facts for your information:

- ✦ Children will be working in very small groups of no more than 8, with at least two adults allocated to the younger groups.
- ✦ Children in all groups will not mix with any other children during the course of the day. They will keep together as a group for all activities and be socially distanced from each other within that group.
- ✦ Lunch will be eaten in the classroom.
- ✦ Toilets will be used by one child at a time.
- ✦ All groups of children will have allocated toilets to use and there will be cleaning of toilets throughout the school day.
- ✦ Children will not be expected to wear school uniform between now and the Summer holiday. The virus can be carried on soft fabrics so children should come to school in freshly laundered clothes each day.
- ✦ Children will not be changing for PE so jogging bottoms and sweatshirts (or shorts and t-shirts for warmer weather) and trainers would be ideal. However, all school policies regarding jewellery and hairstyles etc remain the same.
- ✦ If your child wears a mask and/or gloves to come to school, these must be removed at the school gate.
- ✦ Members of staff will not be wearing masks in school unless a child develops Covid-19 symptoms. In the event of symptoms being displayed, the child will be moved to a specially allocated area and the supervising member of staff will wear full PPE ie gloves, mask and apron, all disposable.
- ✦ There will be supervised hand-washing for the children on several occasions during the day. Soap and water kills the virus. Paper towels will be used for drying hands.
- ✦ We ask all parents/carers to support the hand-washing message by reminding the children - and supervising them - to wash their hands properly and regularly.
- ✦ All after-school clubs are cancelled until the end of term.
- ✦ Fresh water bottles will be provided each day - children do not need to bring a bottle from home.
- ✦ Children will not need their reading bag - books and homework diaries must remain at home.



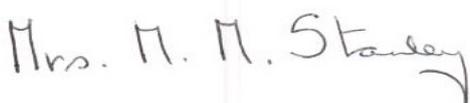
We will make sure that, as far as possible, children are spread out in the classroom. We have a 'no touching' policy for both children and staff (though we will have to be sensible about this if a child is hurt or upset). However, I cannot guarantee that 'social distancing' as we have come to know it will be achieved at all times. Even with smaller groups, this may not be possible at times and our youngest children will find it extremely challenging to keep 2m apart from each other and from their teachers.

- ✦ Parents of returning pupils have been given times for arrival and departure and social distancing must be maintained on the road outside school.
- ✦ Children who arrive late will have to return home as we cannot risk contact with other groups.
- ✦ The office will be closed so parents will not be able to 'sign children in' late.
- ✦ For anyone using public transport to get to or from school - please read the Government advice at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- ✦ All members of staff are involved in teaching and providing for these small groups.
- ✦ Children should continue to access online resources on a daily basis and use the new books we have purchased recently. Please keep completed books at home.
- ✦ School will close at 12:30pm on Fridays to allow for more thorough cleaning and to give members of staff time to prepare for the following week.
- ✦ If you need to speak to us, please telephone the office number - 0121 554 5069 - as you would normally do. If your concern is urgent and cannot be dealt with in a telephone conversation, we may ask you to buzz at the gate and speak to us in a socially distanced manner.
- ✦ We ask parents not to meet and socialise by the school gates - because this will increase the risk of children coming into contact with children from other groups.
- ✦ We shall be doing everything we can to reduce the possibility of transmission of any infection between groups. Because of this, children must stay isolated from other children and adults outside their household when they are out of school. If we discover that a child has spent the evening playing at their friend's house - who is from a different class group or different school, we will not accept them back into school for 7 days. We cannot risk possible transmission of this virus from a person outside the child's household or their school group.
- ✦ Children at school and school staff who display symptoms of COVID-19 are now eligible for a test. If a child displays symptoms in school they will be isolated from their group immediately and the parent called to collect them. Children will not be permitted to return until they have the results of a test. In the case of a positive test, all other children in that group will have to isolate at home for 14 days.
- ✦ Children in Reception Class and Y1 will have a packed lunch from the school kitchen to eat in their classrooms. All packaging will be disposable. Hot meals are not available at this time. Children in other classes may choose to pay for their packed lunch or bring their own. If they do bring their own lunch, parents/carers will be provided with disposable paper bags. Plastic lunch boxes from home cannot be used. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch.
- ✦ Families who have been collecting weekly food parcels may continue to do so unless the child is returning to school. The fortnightly parcels can be collected between 11:00 and 12:00 on Mondays.

I appreciate that this may be a difficult and inconvenient time. Please do remember that every decision we are making is in the best interests of the health and safety of all concerned.

With best wishes to all our school community - stay safe, keep well.

God bless



Mrs MM Stanley  
Headteacher