



St. Charles RCVA Primary School
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5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Information on School Opening

On Monday St Charles School **will open to all pupils** and we look forward to welcoming children back to school.

A big thank you to staff, children and parents for supporting remote learning so well and we look forward having everyone back in their classrooms. Staff will continue to use Google Classroom for setting and supporting work to be completed at home.

The following plans will take effect from Monday 8th March:

- Breakfast club will open as normal but after school activities will stay on suspension (please reserve places in advance)
- All classes will operate a staggered arrival time of 8.40-8.55am
- Children will remain in their class bubbles throughout the day, including at lunchtime and break times.
- Only one adult from each family will be able to come onto site for drop off and pick-ups
- Parents and carers coming onto school site **will always be required to wear a face covering**
- The pickup times for year groups have been altered slightly * to ensure a ten-minute interval between groups and reduce the number of parents on site at any one time:

• Reception	2.40pm *	Year 5 and Year 6	2.50pm *
• Year 3 and Year 4	3.00pm	Year 1 and Year 2	3.10pm

As before, parents who have children in more than one class should arrive to school in time for their latest time slot and not wait on site for multiple pick-ups.

Contingency Plans for Remote Learning

Should our situation change, or children are required to self-isolate, we will support them with a programme of remote learning.

School preparations

Over February half term, the school was 'deep cleaned' by a specialist cleaning company which works with the NHS. All school staff take part in twice weekly lateral flow tests to detect the virus in asymptomatic individuals. There are no plans to introduce testing for primary age pupils. The school has a comprehensive risk assessment in place which promotes and reinforces good hygiene and limits the number of contacts for children throughout the day.

World Book Day

Children will celebrate World Book Day in school on Thursday 11th March when they are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite character. For this year, we would ask that children do not bring 'props' with their outfit and enjoy a dress up only. During the day we will have online sessions with a published author and class-based activities. Mrs Hill will contact you with further details next week.

PE Days

Children are asked to come to school dressed in their outdoor PE kit on their timetabled day as follows:

Monday	Year 5 and 6	Tuesday	Year 3 and 4		
Wednesday	Reception	Thursday	Year 2*	Friday	Year 1

*due to World book Day celebrations, Y2 PE will be on Friday next week.

Lent

As we return to school, we remember that we are in the middle of the liturgical season of Lent, a time of reflection and prayer. Lent reminds us of the time Jesus went into the desert for forty days and nights to fast and pray before beginning his ministry. Christians mark this season by doing without favourite things, as a test of self-discipline, by fasting, by fundraising and by giving to others. At St Charles, we have already begun our Lenten programme and on Friday 22nd March, children will support our parish community by holding a sponsored 'Walk for Water' in aid of CAFOD. Miss Maitland will send further information to you next week.

Please note to the following government guidance to primary schools on 4th March.

Guidance on the use of face coverings in primary schools

From Monday 8 March, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools and further education in England. Further information can be found in the [guidance for schools](#), [guidance for further education providers](#) and [guidance for early years and childcare providers](#).

In primary schools it is recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults. These measures will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep this under review and update guidance as needed.

Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering and they should not be asked to wear one. Dr Susan Hopkins, the Chief Medical Adviser for NHS Test and Trace, has said that "the consensus among educationalists, public health and clinical specialists is that it is not advisable for primary school children to wear face coverings. That is why Public Health England has not recommended to the Department for Education that they should be worn by primary pupils in the classroom. Children need to see facial expressions to develop their communication and language skills and practically, they can have difficulties keeping them on all day."

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

With all good wishes,



Miss M. Tate