

# Sacred Heart Catholic Primary

**Heys Street**

# Thornton-Cleveleys

# FY5 – 4HL

**Tel: 01253 821392**

**Headteacher – Mr P Eaton**

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to thank you for your continued hard work with your children at home and to inform you that following the Government announcement, school will be open for all children on Monday 8th March.

We have introduced several conditions for the return of children to school and for parents to attend the school site, and these will remain for the foreseeable future. We must endeavour to all contribute to making sure school is safe, both inside and outside. If we want the ‘Roadmap’ to conclude on 21st June, we all need to continue to follow the guidance both in school and out of school.

The one-way system and entrance / exits are still in place and will remain so for the foreseeable future. The driveway works extremely well and may well be a permanent feature. Please consider (particularly the juniors) whether your child can walk across the playground to their classroom door by themselves, without the need for a parent to accompany them.

School will operate as usual from 9am to 3.25pm (3.30pm for the juniors). The gates will not be opened prior to 8.50am, to avoid children mixing with other classes prior to school. Please go straight to the classroom doors with your child. When waiting for children at the end of the school day, please respect each other by keeping two metres apart, and keep two metres away from the staff.

We must remember, most parents and school staff have NOT been vaccinated yet, so it is vital to keep following hygiene and social distancing rules.

**MASKS**

Masks are worn by all staff in school, and since January, by all parents, grandparents and siblings who collect or drop off children. This is the case even for High school age children who collect siblings, masks must be worn as soon as anyone enters the gates. This is crucial to helping keep everyone safe.

Children are welcome to wear masks both in and out of class, and there are an increasing number of children in most classes doing this. I would personally recommend this; my own children are doing this in their educational establishments.

**TESTING PRIOR TO RETURNING TO SCHOOL**

In order to provide reassurance to children, parents and staff, we are offering all children home tests prior to the 8th of March. All our staff have been testing twice a week with the home test kits, and we would like all children to be tested before returning to school, ideally on the weekend before Monday 8th March. This is in line with the government recommendation:

‘All households with school children, members of their support and childcare bubbles, and those in related occupations will also be encouraged to get tested regularly.’

We have prepared test kits to be collected from school between 10am and 11.30am on Friday 26th February, Monday 1st March, Tuesday 2nd March and Wednesday 3rd March 2021. If you can arrange

to collect the kits, it will help reassure yourselves and the school community that the infection rates are low enough to see schools fully reopen. All children currently in school will also have kits given to administer at home. We really appreciate your cooperation with this, as identifying asymptomatic cases is a major problem in the pandemic.

**VENTILATION**

Key to the successful return to school of children is to provide well ventilated rooms and corridors, and this will continue to be the case. This is extremely important with having so many children back in one classroom.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

It is the case that hardly any staff or parents are vaccinated yet, please treat everyone with respect, and respect personal space.

**HOUSEHOLDS MIXING INDOORS**

We are occasionally given rumours of ‘play date’ or children visiting other houses. IF this proves to be true, the family may be asked to self-isolate and not attend school, returning to remote learning. We have sacrificed so much as a country, and our staff have sacrificed so much in order to come to school to look after all children, we cannot take risks with staff and children.

**CATCH-UP**

Prior to Lockdown, our children had made astonishing progress in all classes. For instance, in Year 6, their assessment results before Christmas showed they were on course to achieve some of our best results. We know that we have the support of parents, the excellent teaching from our staff and the exemplary attitudes of our children to allow children to make amazing progress.

**BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

Breakfast and After School Club will also be open as usual but for limited numbers, for the foreseeable future. Masks are worn by staff and children for the duration of the time in the Breakfast and After School Club, as we are trying to minimise the contact between classes and bubbles of children, and fundamentally the masks are worn in order to keep the service open.

**VIGILANCE**

If your child or a family member develops any of the key symptoms, they will need to self-isolate until the family member is tested, and for at least 10 days if they are unfortunately positive.

If we all follow the guidance in and out of school, at home and in the public, then we can all move on together and see schools stay open, and the ‘Roadmap’ leads us to freedom in the summer.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Eaton

Headteacher