

The Federation of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning & St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor RC Primary Schools



*Living, loving and learning together,
with our eyes focused on Jesus.*



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17 July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children of Reception Children new to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

September Opening

The government have issued guidance to help us all to return to school safely in September. As a school we are very much looking forward to having all our children back on site and learning within their classes. We have missed each of them a great deal. The issued guidance has sections of advice within it that are easy and straightforward to implement. However, other advice is much more difficult within our setting. We have old and unusual buildings with small spaces and plumbing constraints that we normally work around well. As every school is different – in terms of staffing, configuration, resources and so on - I know that each school around the country is doing its utmost to ensure the safety of their pupils and staff within their individual setting, and doing it differently. This is what unites us all. The measures detailed below are the first of what I'm sure will be many. I know that as we put them into practice we will need to alter and tweak them as we cannot foresee every eventuality – and we know that our children always surprise us!

There is another letter, dated 15 July 2020, that details many of the practicalities of returning to school in the Autumn Term. Please contact the office if you have not received it.

Transition for your child

A gradual transition into school is planned. We know the children may feel anxious leaving parents and may become tired very easily. The children have been split into two groups and which will come together before being in full time. We are here to support your child through this so they feel comfortable and ready to come each day. Below is the timetable for their transition. **Your child is a CROCODILE.** Please come to the Reception Gate on Burnell Road at 9:30am.

Date	Year Groups in School
Tue 8 Sept	Reception CROCODILE group 9:30-11:30
Wed 9 Sept	Reception LION group 9:30-11:30
Thur 10 Sept	Reception CROCODILE group 9:30-1:30
Fri 11 Sept	Reception LION group 9:30-1:30
Mon 14 Sept	All Reception 9:30 - 1:30
Tue 15 Sept	All Reception 9:30 - 2:30
Wed 16 Sept onwards	Reception join full time

Illness

DO NOT send your child to school if they have any of the coronavirus symptoms. If your child becomes unwell with a *new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell*, you **must keep them at home**, arrange a test as soon as possible and they must self-isolate for at least 7 days. If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms in school, they will be isolated and sent home immediately. Whilst our staff and children are not required to wear PPE around school, staff will be wearing full PPE for the most serious medical treatments or if a child requires isolation.

Should an individual be confirmed as having COVID-19 school will take advice from the health protection team for definitive advice on who must be sent home for a self-isolation period of 14 days. In some cases this may be the whole class, including staff.

Overcrowding

In order to keep everyone safe and to ease pressure on shared areas in school (corridors, toilets, cloakrooms), as well as limiting large numbers of adults gathering (in car park, at gates), we will be operating a staggered start and end to the day. We will use two gates to access the school. Siblings have been grouped together in order to ease the need for adults to wait. **Your child is in GROUP B.** Please arrive within the time slot given, queue at 2m intervals if necessary and leave the site promptly once your child has been passed to staff. Where safe to do so, older children are encouraged to make their own way to and from school. *Children should not enter through the main entrance and children will not be escorted into school by staff. If you are late, please wait well away from the school until other groups have entered.* **No parent cars are permitted in the school car park at any time.**

Group	Entrance	Morning Drop-off	Afternoon Pick-up
A	Main Gate	8:40 - 8:50	3:30 - 3:40
B	Reception Gate	8:45 - 8:55	3:25 - 3:35
C	Main Gate	8:45 - 8:55	3:35 - 3:45

Summer Activities

Hopefully your child has started to engage with the activity pack. Attached is information about phonics from Mr Baxter. Your child has been given a NumBots account from school. Their username and password will be sent to you in a separate email. NumBots is a maths app which is free for you to download. It can be found at <https://play.numbots.com/#/account/search-school> - our school postcode is detailed above. Other sites your child may enjoy whilst encourage learning are

Teach Your Monster to Read (free on a PC) <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

Alphablocks (free through BBC) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

Numberblocks (free through BBC) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

Hungry Little Minds offers lots of ways to help your child get ready to start school
<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

And, most importantly, ThinkUKnow have excellent advice on how to keep young child safe when online
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online>

Communication

If you wish to communicate with a member of staff in school, **please e-mail or ring school.** Entrance into school will be by appointment or invitation only and only when absolutely necessary.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these difficult times.

Kind regards
Louise Keenan (Mrs)
Head teacher