

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



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

12 September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

## New Autumn Term

It has been wonderful to have our children back in school over this last week. They have delighted us with their smiles, laughter and chatter. They have impressed us with their quickness in getting to grips with new routines and eagerness to get down to learning. As the week has gone on we have been able to tweak and adapt the plans, routines and systems we have in place to keep everyone safe. We have also been asked many questions by yourselves. In order to help keep you up to date with things please find below some of the common question threads we have been asked and some of the finer details that will further help your child in school.

### Illness

Thank you to those of you who have had a poorly child and rung to check if they should attend school. This is fine – we would rather discuss it with you in advance than have to send a child home. There are lots of colds and sniffles going around at the moment (amongst children and staff). This is normal. Children can attend school with a mild cold. If your child has a heavy cold or very sore throat it would be preferable to keep them off school for 24-48 hours to minimise the spread amongst their friends. *Please ring school each morning of your child's absence.*

### **COVID-19 Illness - DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE ANY OF THE CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS:**

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature (hot to touch on forehead and chest)
- Loss, or change in, normal taste or smell

**Should your child display these symptoms DO NOT send your child or any siblings to school. Book a test for the affected members of the household and everyone must isolate for 14 days.** Let us know that you are arranging a test on the first morning of the absence and keep us informed of how the testing is progressing. You will receive an email of the test result which we must receive in school before your child(ren) can return. *Please ring school each morning of your child's absence.*

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms in school, they will be isolated and sent home immediately. We expect the you will come immediately to collect your child. 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.

As a parent, we will not make you aware each time a member of the school community takes a COVID-19 test, as we expect this to be very frequently. 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 informed as well as who must be sent home for a

self-isolation period of 14 days. In some cases this may be the whole class, including staff. At no time will school divulge the names of those being tested or of anyone testing positive.

Calpol / Children's Paracetamol & Prescriptions – Please DO NOT give your child Calpol (Children's paracetamol) and then send them to school. As parents we all know how invaluable it can be able to give a spoonful when required for minor ailments. However, paracetamol lowers the body's temperature and, therefore, may mask coronavirus symptoms. Prescription medication that must be administered 4 times a day or more will be permitted into school. Please ring the office to make Miss McKenna aware that you will be calling in and she will have the correct form ready for you to complete.

### Wrap-around Care

We have looked carefully at how we could operate this safely over the last week. Sadly, we are **unable to offer any out of school care at the moment**. We will be reviewing this situation regularly. We have a list of those children that would like to attend breakfast / after school club and we will contact you immediately we are able to resume the clubs. Should you wish to add your child's name to the list, please email the school office.

### Hygiene & Cleanliness

Children will continue with regular handwashing and children are required to wash their hands frequently.

Hand sanitizer is also be in place around the school for directed use in specific areas – for example before entering the lunch hall.

Increased cleaning takes place around the school in toilets and of frequently touched areas/surfaces.

### Social Distancing in School in September

Inside school, children will continue to be kept in one of 4 bubbles, where possible. This will consist of their class.

During lunch times Class 1 & 2 bubbles occupy opposite ends the lunch hall but when outside they have their own separate play zone.

Class 3 & 4 will similarly share break times but have a specific play zone.

There will be no whole school gatherings for liturgies, assemblies or singing etc.

Where practical to do so, the corridors have arrow reminders to encourage children to walk on the left at all times.

Children sit facing the front of the classroom, shoulder to shoulder for most lessons/activities but group work also takes place.

Physical contact is discouraged between children.

Staff will endeavour to remain 2m from children as well as adults. Please don't worry – we WILL comfort your child if they are upset or have hurt themselves. When in class we will still be monitoring work and helping children to flourish. We already operate a minimal marking system which will assist with this. Please measure this distance out with your child and help by reminding them to stay this far away from adults and each other.

## Drop Off & Pick Up

This is working very well on a morning and children are coming into school swiftly.

Pick up time is more problematic. We are doing our utmost to keep to the times but with such low staff numbers this is difficult at times and we appreciate your patience. It would be a great help if you could come forward to the pick-up spot / hand over area and then move away from the area. *Please remember to stay 2metres away from all staff – outside of the sectioned area.*

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

If you have a message for school on a morning, please ring the school office; Miss McKenna would love to speak to you.

There may be times when a staff member passes a message to you (e.g. your child has fallen or was a superstar in maths). Please do not be offended if this is brief and the staff member moves on – if you have further questions, please ring in. If there is something very urgent, or complicated, we will ring you.

## Uniform & PE kit

I have been very impressed by how well presented the children have been in their uniforms coming into school, and by the fact that almost everyone came in their PE kit on the correct day. It really gives our school a wonderfully cohesive feel when everyone wears our school jumper or cardigan. Where possible, for PE please send your child in with joggers rather than leggings which are often short in the leg and uncomfortable to tuck their T-shirt into. All PE T-shirts should be round necked to differentiate it from regular uniform.

Class	PE Day	Start Date
1	Monday	21 <sup>st</sup> September
2	Monday	Ongoing
3	Friday	Ongoing
4	Thursday	Ongoing

As windows and doors are stood open more frequently, children have found that school can be cold. It would be worth ensuring your child has a vest, or white-round neck T-shirt under their school T-shirt. Gloves and hats will also be needed as the weather turns colder. If the weather becomes particularly wet, please feel free to send your child in their labelled wellies with their school shoes in their bag (spare socks/tights also help!)

Your child should bring a coat *every day*.

Please continue to ensure all clothing is labelled with your child's name.

## Lunches & Snacks

Cool Milk supplies should return by the end of September and we shall keep you informed as this progresses.

The National Fruit Scheme which provides each child in Class 1 & 2 a piece of fruit at break time has resumed. You may wish to continue to send your child with their own snack each day, particularly for those in Class 3 & 4. Any surplus fruit in school will be distributed across the classes towards the end of the week.

## Homework & Home Reading

You are your child's first educator and this was never more so than during the summer term when your home-schooling was amazing. Please keep this going! Reading with them for 10 minutes each night and encouraging them to complete the school learning apps each evening will greatly assist your child.

Year Group	Apps
Reception	Numbots / Teach Your Monster To Read
1	Numbots / Teach Your Monster To Read
2	Numbots / Doodle English / Doodle Maths / Doodle Spell
3 & 4	Times Table Rock Stars / Doodle English / Doodle Maths / Doodle Spell
5 & 6	Doodle English / Doodle Maths / Doodle Spell / Times Table Rock Stars

We will soon begin to send home reading books with each child. Read to your child and then let them read to you – can they copy your pronunciation, volume and expression? It's okay for younger / less confident readers to re-read the story or pages you have read to them, it will deepen their understanding. Please record the reading in the Home-School Contact Book which should be kept with your child's reading book. Do not write notes for school in here at this time as children will be asked weekly, rather than daily, to show this record to their teacher, but it will not be signed by school. Reading books returned will enter quarantine in school before being returned to the library areas and books may only be distributed on certain days when staffing levels and quarantine sessions allow. Each child has completed a reading assessment and will be given a suitable book based on this. Please be patient if your child seems to have been given an 'easy' book, or have been placed on a level lower than they were prior to lock down. This is intentional in order to raise their confidence and to ensure that reading is a positive experience for them. Enjoy reading time with them and they will progress quickly.

Your child may also bring home spellings, worksheets and phonic work. Please complete these with them and return to school where requested – they will be placed in quarantine within school.

## Pencil Cases & Equipment

Thank you for the effort you have each gone to in order to ensure your child has their own equipment. This has been a great relief for us. Remember, all items within the pencil case, as well as the pencil case itself, should be cleaned each weekend before returning to school on Monday.

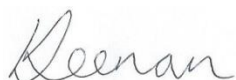
Water bottles should be washed each evening and come into school filled for the day, every day.

## 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. All visitors over the age of 11 will be required to wear a face covering. If you have a message for school on a morning, please ring the school office; Miss McKenna would love to speak to you.

Thank you once again for your continued support, patience and understanding in these difficult times.

Kind regards



Louise Keenan (Mrs)  
Head Teacher