

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



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



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

27 March 2021

End of the Spring Term 2021

Well, what a strange term! As we expected, your children have been amazing. They have settled back into school well and carried on with their learning. The Easter break will be a welcome opportunity for them to have a rest and spend quality time with you before returning ready to work hard in the summer term. As well as talking with your child, please remember to keep reading to and with them during the break, as this is an easy way to help your child to maintain their progress in all areas of school.

As expected, government guidelines for schools have changed (a little) once again. Many measures we currently have in place will remain. Please read through the points detailed below, where I have attempted to answer some of the questions that have come into school in the last week or so. I have indicated where there has been no change from the previous information given.

Lockdown Learning & Children's Progress

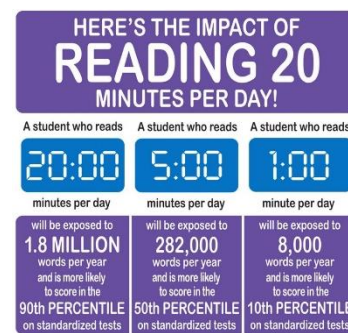
Thank you for all the work that you helped and encouraged your child to complete during the Spring 2021 Lockdown. Your children have worked hard! Based on this work and the last three weeks of term in school, teachers are preparing your child's report which will be issued on our return in April. There will also be the option of booking a telephone appointment with your child's teacher to discuss their report. I hope you are able to take advantage of this.

Congratulations to the Decorate a Wellie and Wellie Whanging Competition winners – the entries were brilliant!

CAFOD Walk for Water Sponsorship Donations may continue to be paid online over the holiday and we will let you know the total your generosity has made when we return. Thank you for those paid in so far.

School Holidays

2020 / 2021	Open for teaching	Last day of teaching	Half Term	Open for teaching	Last day of teaching
Summer Term	Monday 12 April 2021	Thursday 27 May	1 – 4 June	Monday 7 June	Friday 16 July 2021



The government have been very specific in reiterating that **it is a legal requirement that children attend school**. If you wish to request a [Leave of Absence during term time please complete the form located on the school website](#) and return to school, along with any supporting evidence, at least 14 days prior to the event. Please note, however, that leave will not be granted for holidays.

2021 / 2022	Open for teaching	Last day of teaching	Half Term	Open for teaching	Last day of teaching
Autumn Term	Tuesday 7 September 2021	Friday 22 October	25 – 29 October	Monday 1 November	Tuesday 21 December
Spring Term	Wednesday 5 January 2022	Friday 18 February	21 – 25 February	Monday 28 February	Friday 8 April
Summer Term	Monday 25 April 2022	Thursday 26 May	27 May – 6 June	Tuesday 7 June	Thursday 21 July 2022

Wrap-around Care

Breakfast Club begins as soon as we return and places for the first week back have already been booked in. Should you wish to book a place for your child to attend, please phone Miss McKenna on our return to school.

After School Clubs will return as a FREE sports club and will be open to a particular class at a time. Children may wear PE kit on the day they have an after school Sports Club.

Class	FREE After School Sports Club 3:30-4:30pm
1	Monday
2	Wednesday
3	Thursday
4	Tuesday & Friday

Hygiene & Cleanliness – no change

There will be a continued emphasis on regular handwashing and children will be required to wash their hands frequently. Children will be re-taught how to do this and will receive regular direction and time to do so.

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

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

Illness – no change, **but PLEASE ring in each morning of your child's absence**

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 risk of spreading this 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 10 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. If necessary, 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.

COVID-19 Testing – slight change

You will have seen in the news that school staff have access to regular COVID-19 testing in order to help minimise outbreaks. As a parent, you are also entitled to access regular testing. This must be done via your local testing centre and kits are not available through primary schools. Please contact 119 should you have any queries.

Results of any testing will remain strictly private and confidential to the individual and the school. 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 10-14 days. In some cases, this may be the whole class, including staff.

Social Distancing in School from April – slight changes

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

During lunch times Class 1 & 2 bubbles will occupy the lunch hall together, sitting separately. When outside each bubble will have their own separate play zone.

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

There will be no whole school gatherings for liturgies, assemblies or singing etc. As the term progresses, combined Class 1 & 2 bubbles and Class 3 & 4 bubbles may occupy the hall together, sitting separately, for awards events / assemblies lasting under 15 minutes.

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

Whilst working, children will sit in a mixture of group configurations, which will include small inward facing groups, facing the front of the classroom or shoulder to shoulder.

Physical contact will be 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.

Face Coverings – no changes

Parents, carers and adults bringing children to and from school are **required to wear a mask** and **disperse from the school gates/fence immediately**. *You may feel it is ok to stand in a group and chat but other parents may feel very uncomfortable and struggle to pass you on the street.*

Staff in primary schools are not required to wear a face covering but do so on many occasions. Children are now familiar with adults wearing masks on a daily basis but they will be reassured that this is 'normal'.

Visitors into school will be required to wear a face covering. This includes a quick visit to the school office (by appointment only), maintenance and repair personnel and peripatetic teachers. Once peripatetic teachers are with their students they may remove their face covering.

Overcrowding at Drop Off & Pick Up

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 continue to operate a staggered start to the day. We will continue to use two gates to access the school. Siblings should come together, preferably at the younger siblings' timeslot.

Child's Class	Arrival Time	Pick Up Time
Class 1	8:40am	3:30pm Wear a mask Queue at 2m intervals Move away <u>immediately</u>
Class 2	8:45am	
Class 3	8:40am	
Class 4	8:45am	

Please arrive within the time slot given, queue at 2m intervals and leave the site promptly once your child has been passed to / from 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. Please remember that parent cars are not permitted in the school car park at any time, keep school markings clear and cars should not bump up onto the pavement outside school when children are walking along – this is very dangerous and inconsiderate.

To keep interactions brief and the flow of children moving, please do not pass messages on to staff at the school gate – ring the office instead.

At the end of the day children will be escorted outside and will be collected on a strict queueing rotation. When you arrive at school to collect your child please ensure you are wearing your mask and **join the queue at 2m intervals**. The children will be waiting to go at 3:30pm and will be called forward by the teacher as you move to the front of the queue.

Uniform, PE kit & Clothing

Pupils are expected to wear school uniform as usual. This includes appropriate footwear. All uniform should be clean when arriving at school each day. If your child has outgrown their uniform and you have not had the opportunity to replace it, please send your child in non-branded clothing of a similar colour, where possible – we would much rather your child came to school in non-uniform than did not attend. **Non-uniform is expected when celebrating a birthday!**

We will continue permitting children to attend school in PE kit on the days they have PE or attend an after school sports club. Please ensure your child wears a **school PE top, school jumper/cardigan, coat, plain navy or grey tracksuit bottoms and a pair of trainers** on these days (no visible logos). PE will be outdoors wherever possible – please ensure your child wears more than just shorts to school.

Class	PE Day	FREE After School Sports Club 3:30-4:30pm
1	Monday	Monday
2	Monday	Wednesday
3	Tuesday	Thursday
4	Tuesday	Tuesday & Friday

Although school is not quite as cold as in January, windows remain open and it can be chilly. Please ensure your child has a vest if necessary and a school jumper/cardigan every day. **Your child must also bring a coat every day.**

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

Lunches & Snacks - no changes

School lunches will continue as previously. Class 1 and 2 will eat lunch in the dining hall after having playtime outside. Children in Class 3 and 4 will eat lunches in their classrooms. Those on school lunches in Class 3 and 4 will have their school lunch delivered take-away style to the classroom.

All packed lunches should be as healthy as possible and include fruit or vegetables each day. *No chocolate bars or sweets or fizzy drinks are permitted in the lunch bags.*

The National Fruit Scheme, which provides each child in KS1 a piece of fruit at break time, will continue. However, please feel free to send your child, whatever their age, with a piece of fruit for morning break time.

Equipment – Items to bring

It is really important that children come equipped for school correctly. Each child should bring their pencil case on a Monday which needs to contain the following items:

- HB pencils
- blue pen (for juniors)
- glue stick – essential! Children go through these quickly, please check them regularly.
- rubber
- 15cm ruler (or 30cm ruler to remain on their desk)

- coloured pencils
- pencil sharpener
- children's round tipped scissors

The pencil case will remain in school all week and taken home at the weekend so each item can be cleaned. Please ensure you do this to keep everyone safe. All items within the pencil case, as well as the pencil case itself, must each weekend before returning to school on Monday.

The only other things children need to bring each day are:

- water bottle – preferably the school water bottle, bottles causing distraction within the classroom will not be permitted
- coat
- packed lunch if they need one. Packed lunch bags must be cleaned before returning to school.
- Pencil case containing: Items will be available on request for those experiencing difficulties obtaining them.
- fruit for break time (optional)
- reading record on a Monday – **signed**

Should you wish your child to bring their items in a bag this should be their RED school satchel, as far as possible. All bags must be cleaned before returning to school, included lunch bags.

Please ensure all personal belongings (yes, each pencil and case) is labelled with your child's name.

Photographs

The school photographer was due to attend in January. A new date has booked and you will be advised of this in April. Please ensure children wear uniform for photographs. Siblings will be photographed together and individually. Please remember you are under no obligation to buy any or all of the photographs.

Easter Celebrations

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust gathered videos from across the schools and have put together a Stations of the Cross reflection which is available on YouTube. Children from our schools participated in this too. You will need to [click the link here to access the Stations](#) and you will find an [order of service on the school website](#) should you wish to join in.

This year, as we were unable to come together as a school, the children retold specific events of Holy Week and they were filmed in order to share with the rest of the school. The links to the videos, which are held on Vimeo, are below. Holy Week has been split into each of the relevant days and are particularly powerful if viewed one after the other. You may, however, prefer to watch them on their specific day. However you choose to engage with them, I am sure that you will enjoy reflecting with the children's retelling of the most important events of our Catholic faith. The links are also available on DB Primary, on the Liturgy page of School Life.

[Holy Week Part 1 – Palm Sunday](#)

[Holy Week Part 2 – Holy Thursday](#)

[Holy Week Part 3 – Good Friday Part 1](#)

[Holy Week Part 4 – Good Friday Part 2](#)

Thank you once again for your continued support, patience and understanding in these difficult times. I wish each of you, your children and your whole family a peaceful and blessed Easter.

God bless,

Louise Keenan (Mrs)
Head teacher

