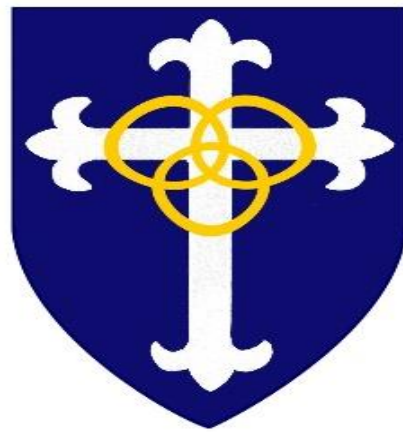


St. Edmund's R.C.P.S.

WELCOME



**Back to School
September 2020**



Information Booklet for Children

Hello children,

We hope you are all staying safe and well and are looking forward to finally returning to school this September. We can't wait to welcome you back. Your teachers are so pleased that you have been engaging with the work that they have set for you in your activity packs and on ClassDojo. Thank you



for sharing some of your wonderful work with us. We have loved seeing the photos and videos. Well done! We know it has been quite different not being with your friends or teachers and we think that you and your parents have been fantastic – congratulations!

Very soon it will be time for you to return to school so we need to let you know how everything is going to work in September. Some things are going to be different but some things won't change. The things that are going to be different will be different because we want to make sure that you, your friends, your parents and the staff at school are safe. One thing that definitely won't change...you'll be reunited with your classmates once again!

In September we are all going to return to school. This is great news. But, we can't all return straight away on the first day – this wouldn't be safe. The government have set all schools new guidelines about how schools can operate. This means all the staff need to learn about the guidelines and have some training. This will take place on 1st September. We want your return to school to be as comfortable and as safe as possible, which is why we have created this booklet to talk you through what it will be like. We hope to be able to answer most of your questions.



So... first things first – **When will I return to school?**



Here is the plan for school to re-open

Date	What will happen?
Tuesday, 1 st September	Staff return to school for their induction Your parents will register you online
Wednesday, 2 nd September	Parent & child induction – this will be done over the phone. Staff will ring your parents
Thursday, 3 rd September	Only families with surnames beginning A-J will come to school for induction
Friday, 4 th September	Only families with surnames beginning K-Z will come to school for induction
Monday 7 th September	Everyone comes to school

What will it be like coming back to school?

As you all know, school, like many other places has been closed to most children because of the Coronavirus but thankfully things are starting to re-open. You can visit your grandparents, go for a haircut, visit the dentist, go to the park, play with your friends. Places are re-opening because the government says it is safer to start doing all sorts of things as long as we are all sensible. Coronavirus hasn't gone away so we have to **stay alert** and do our best to stay safe. To help make school a safe place to be, changes have had to be made. Two of the biggest things we can do is, keep a safe distance from others and wash our hands regularly, more often than we used to.

When you come back to school, we will be doing our best to help you do both of these things. You will be with your classmates, in your classroom but you will be keeping your distance from other children in other classrooms. We will need to do this as much as possible so that's a bit strange. The good news is that you will be with your friends – you will work with your friends, play with your friends and pray with your friends.



At all times it is important to keep our selves clean, especially our hands.

We have to make some changes to the way we arrive and leave school, the way we move around school and where we play in the playground. All of these changes will be to keep us all safe. It might seem strange at first but we will soon get used to it.

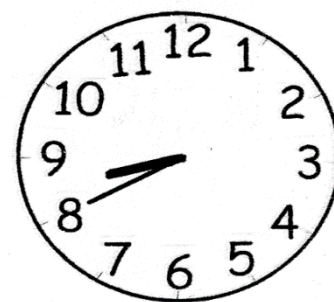
Because things are going to be different, we want to make sure you know what school and your classroom will look like. This booklet will take you through what to expect when you come back.

There is also a really useful video which we'd like you to watch. You can download it here:



What time will school start for me?

Lessons will start at 9.00 o'clock but you will need to be at school well before then because the way you arrive at school is going to change. We need you to come to school for 8.40 a.m.



Arriving at school

This is going to be different. Your parents will need to give plenty of time to drop you off. You will need to be patient and you will need to arrive in good time. Watch the video and you will see how it's going to work. We can't have too many families near our school gate at the same time because this won't be safe. If your parents drive, they will need to park in a safe place which is at least a **5-minute** walk away. This will make it safer – your parents will be able to look ahead to see that the path to the gate is clear.



To make sure we don't have all families arriving at the same time, the gates and doors will be open from **8.40 a.m.** This will give everyone plenty of time and there will be no need to rush. Only **one** parent or carer will be able to bring you onto the school grounds. Older children – you will be expected to come through the gates on your own. Your parents can see that you are safe from the road. Younger children, you will have to hold onto your parent's hand. We don't want you to be tempted to run off and play at this time. All children will enter into the same gate and we will have a **one-way** system in place. This means everyone will walk in one direction around

the external of the building. When you walk in, the doors go in this order: Nursery, Years 5 & 6, Years 3&4, walk around the corner to Year 2, Year 1 and then finally Reception. Once past

Reception, your parents will keep on walking out onto the carpark and out of the gates. You and your parent need to stay together and keep a safe distance (2 metres) away from other families.

By all means wave and call, 'good morning' and give everyone a smile! This is the safest way for everyone to arrive at school but the big difference is that it will take more time so you will need to be organised in the mornings!

What do I need to bring to school?

In September, we are asking you to bring 5 things: your smile, your good manners, a piece of fruit, a water bottle and a book bag. You are not to bring anything else. All toys, hair accessories, stationery and mobile phones are to stay at home. If you have long hair, this MUST be tied up with a plain bobble. We would like you to wear a water-proof jacket with a hood because we will be spending more time outside. We will issue all children with a school book bag so please don't bring any other bags with you.



What if I usually bring a packed lunch?



Please continue to bring your packed lunch. When the weather is fine, your teachers will take you outside to eat lunch. The children who usually have school lunches will also be given a packed lunch by our kitchen team. We would prefer you to bring your lunch in a plastic or paper bag so we can throw away any uneaten food at the end of lunchtime. However, if your parents prefer to send a lunch box instead, this is fine too.

Who is going to be my teacher?

Good question! The news about who is teaching who in September was sent out in a letter to your parents with your school reports. Like we have already mentioned, you will still be with your classmates from last year.

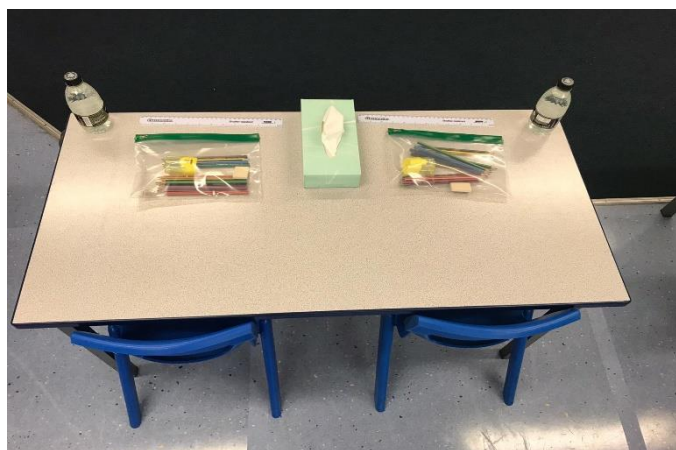
What can I expect the classrooms to be like? (this is for children in Years 1-6)

It's going to be very different! The government has given the school guidelines about how to make our classrooms safe places to be. We have made a lot of changes and you will see these when you first come back. Your teachers will show you everything so there isn't anything to worry about. These changes are to help us keep our distance. You have all heard of 'social distancing' by now.

The biggest change for some of you will be the seating plan. All children will have to sit in twos rather than fours or sixes. Don't worry, the teachers will make sure that you are sitting next to one of your friends. This is very important for you. Your table and chair will face the front and this will help you to face the front too. We have to make sure that you are facing the front of the class and that the teachers have plenty of space to move around.



You will be given your own place to sit and yes, next to a friend. You will have your own little 'buddy bubble' and you won't be swapping seats with anyone else in class.



We will give you your own pencil case along with your own stationery (pens, pencils, ruler etc). This means you won't share but you'll have to keep your own things safe. Big responsibility!

Teachers will give out the books.

You can have your bottle of water on your table.

What do I do when I first get to class?

Your very first jobs when you get to class will be to put your bottle on your table, put your packed lunch (if you have one) in a designated place (your teacher will show you) and then wash your hands. Your teacher will show you where to sit. You will read a book, do some calculations or a puzzle and wait for other children to arrive.

Will we be having the same lessons as before?



Yes! Absolutely! We can't wait to get back to teaching all of the fun lessons we usually have. This is one of the good things that won't be changing. The only difference is that most of your lessons will take place in your classroom and any visiting teachers will come to you.

To start with, some of our lessons will include learning about this new way of life: social distancing, hand-washing, hygiene and how to keep us all safe. A good way to learn about things is to practise them – so we will do exactly that. Then it will become normal and the usual thing to do. Change can take time but we can all help each other. We will be doing our best to make your learning fun and we will be wanting to get your ideas. Because it will be the start of the year, you will learn a lot about your new teacher, our school prayers & badge and the teachers can't wait to learn about you. You will have more time to play with your friends and we will probably do some whole school projects. Make sure, if you have any ideas, please share them with your teacher.

Hand washing & sanitizers



One of the most important things we need to do to keep us safe at school is to make sure our hands and school is clean. Throughout the day everyone will be washing their hands in the way our medical experts have shown us. This is the safest way to stop the spread of these invisible germs! We will use our classroom sinks and bathrooms to do our handwashing. The staff will show you how to do this and check that you're doing it right. There will also be hand sanitisers in lots of places around the school and you can use these when you walk past. You might feel like you're washing your hands a lot...and you'll be correct!

- ✓ When you first arrive in class
- ✓ Anytime before you go outside
- ✓ Anytime you come back inside
- ✓ Before lunch
- ✓ After lunch
- ✓ Before you go home



And not forgetting each time you visit the bathroom to use the toilet!

All this hand washing will probably make your hands and fingers sore and they will feel dry. Your parents will buy some hand cream which you should put on before you go to sleep. This will really help!



Cleaning and hygiene



Your classroom and areas around the school will be cleaned more than usual during the day and when you go home to make sure we are keeping all areas tidy and clean. We will arrange for the cleaning to happen whilst you are outside playing. The cleaning fairies will come and go but you probably won't spot them!

School uniform – is it staying the same?

The governors have discussed your school uniform and they agree with children and parents that we should keep our school uniform the way it is. They agree that you look really smart in school uniform, wearing our school badge. However, they did agree that we should relax some parts. For example, they don't think you need to wear a shirt & tie at Primary school. So... we have...

Blue polo t-shirt

Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with badge (in stock at Ziggy's)

Grey tailored trousers/skirt

What is the decision on shoes or trainers?

Again, governors discussed your responses to the questionnaire and made the decision that children can wear black shoes **OR** black trainers. They have specified that the trainers need to be plain black with no prominent branding to be evident. Your parents will know which ones to buy.



Why is everyone talking about bubbles?

Everyone is talking about bubbles but what does it mean? To help keep us safe, the government suggest that when we mix with other people, we should the try and keep the mixing to our own 'bubble'. This will reduce the chance of people catching coronavirus. For children at school, this means your bubble will be your class. You will be spending time in your class bubble throughout the day and won't be able to play or work with pupils from other class bubbles. You will be able to see other children and staff and give them a wave but for the rest of the time, you will stay with your class – your bubble.



This is all related to the coronavirus. If someone in your bubble (class) gets coronavirus, we will have to ask everyone in your bubble (class) to stay at home. This will help us to control the spread of the virus. You will probably have more questions about this so the teachers will give you a good explanation of what will happen in this scenario. So, for now, don't worry about it.

Timetable

This is something that we will be working hard to keep the same. You will have your usual lessons: R.E., Maths, English, Science, Topic, PSHE, Music, Art etc and lots of physical activity outside. Assemblies & prayer & worship will most probably be done differently but we will still make sure that we pray together and celebrate our achievements each week. This is really important for you.

Morning break

For children in Years 1-6, you will have your morning break in class unless your teacher decides to take you outside. Please bring in a piece of fruit each day which you can eat at your desk and have with your water. It's important that we stay healthy and have our '5 a day'. Eating plenty of fruit and vegetables will help our bodies fight off any viruses. It's also important that you come to school having had your breakfast. Rumbling tummies don't help you learn your lessons!



What will we eat at lunchtime?

Such an important question! Our kitchen team are working hard to get hot meals cooked again as soon as possible. We will let you know when this will be. Here is a sample menu of what your school meals will consist of in September.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pasta choice Tomato sauce with shells or Sandwich selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White sliced bread • Wholemeal bap • White pitta bread Choose from the following fillings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg • Tuna • Cheese • Ham • Chicken Veggie sausage roll Strawberry yoghurt Apple Water	Pasta choice Tuna sweetcorn and twists or Sandwich selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown sliced bread • White bap • Wrap Choose from the following fillings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg • Tuna • Cheese • Ham • Chicken Carrot & cucumber batons with cream cheese Muffin Satsuma Water	Pasta choice Sweet chilli Quorn with tubes or Sandwich selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White sliced bread • Wholemeal bap • White baguette Choose from the following fillings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg • Tuna • Cheese • Ham • Chicken Pizza slice Raspberry yoghurt Banana Water	Pasta choice Tomato sauce with shells or Sandwich selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown sliced bread • White bap • Brown pitta bread Choose from the following fillings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg • Tuna • Cheese • Ham • Chicken Carrot & cucumber humous Cheese & crackers Grapes (KS2) / Banana Water	Pasta choice Tuna sweetcorn and twists or Sandwich selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White sliced bread • Wholemeal bap • Wrap Choose from the following fillings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg • Tuna • Cheese Cheese whirl Homemade biscuit Apple Water

What happens at home time?

When it's home time, you'll say your afternoon prayers together and then you'll get ready to meet your parents. You will wash your hands and take your water bottle, book bag and jacket home. Your parents will come to the doors to meet you. You will walk off the premises following the one way system and remembering to stay at a safe distance from others. This is the best way to keep everyone safe.

Nursery parents can collect their child at 3 o'clock if they don't have any older children. Everyone else will finish at 3.15 p.m. but again, we'd like parents to wait patiently and enter the school site when they can see it's safe to do so. Everyone will be expected to stay in the line and follow the arrows.



What about before and after school clubs?

If your parents work, we can offer you some child care in the mornings. We will open the gates at 8 o'clock but it won't be taking place in the hall like it used to. Your parents will drop you off at the Year 5 & 6 entrance & a member of staff will take you to class. A separate leaflet will be sent out about this so that your parents will know exactly what to do and how to register.

Unfortunately, at the moment, we can't run any after school clubs. Once we find a safe way to organise them, we will get them started again. Watch this space!

Please use the link below to watch a video of some of the key things that have been discussed in this booklet.



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IhbPzEdQilfPUBkGQhFcbncn_DIVAE9Z/view?usp=sharing

Thank you!

Thank you for reading this booklet. We hope this has helped you get an idea of what school will be like when you return. We look forward to seeing you in September and we hope you're as excited as we are. If you have any questions, please ask the member of staff during induction and they will be happy to help. In the meantime, enjoy the summer and...



Stay with us Lord, on our journey.