**St Catherine’s Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Class Covid19 FAQ**

**August 2020**



In August your child will return to school in line with all other schools across Scotland on a full-time basis. We will look forward to seeing you all Monday-Friday each week if the coronavirus continues to be supressed. I must stress, however, that unless further advice from the government changes we will be operating under current guidance and would therefore ask you to familiarise yourself with the information provided in this leaflet.

If there is a change to government guidance and we have to revert to our contingency plan we will be inviting your child to return to St. Catherine’s Primary School on the days suggested in our previous correspondence (issued on Monday 22 June). This involves our school operating a “Blended Learning “model and means your child will spend some time learning in school and some time learning at home each week.

An assessment of the space available in St. Catherine’s Primary School has been conducted to allow the safe introduction of both models. In order to ensure the safety of pupils and staff some changes have been required.

Please find below some further school information and guidance which I trust you will find helpful.

**What will my child’s learning environment look like?**

Classrooms and other teaching spaces have been reorganised to ensure children are as safe as possible. All unnecessary equipment and resources have been removed to allow effective cleaning at the end of each day. All children will have their own designated workstation in the room(front facing). Each workstation will be set up with resources to be used only by the child assigned. Children will not be permitted to share resources. A cleaning caddy will be available for each teaching space and all children will be encouraged to keep their own workspace clean and tidy. Staff will encourage children to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Hot water and soap will be available to children across the school for this purpose. There will be signage displayed at strategic points inside the building to reinforce key safety messages for children and staff. We also have a day cleaner on site each day.

**Are there any changes to the curriculum on offer in St. Catherine’s Primary School?**

Children will continue to have in-school learning experiences and lessons which are age and stage appropriate and meet their individual needs. We are however unable to organise excursions, hold assemblies, host family learning or parent events until further notice.

**What should my child wear to school?**

On the days your child attends St. Catherine’s Primary we are planning to spend an increased amount of time learning outdoors therefore it is important that our children are prepared for the Scottish weather.

• We have introduced a slight change to our traditional school uniform for August 2020 (school polo shirt, black/blue sweatshirt/hoody and black/blue leggings, joggers or comfortable trousers).

• Children should be dressed for the weather and ensure that their jackets and footwear are appropriate for outdoor learning.

• Where a child is unable to tie their shoelaces, we request that Velcro fastening footwear is worn to avoid unnecessary close contact with staff during the school day.

• A change of shoes should be brought into school each day – soft shoes, plimsoles or trainers.

**Should my child bring a school bag to school?**

Children may bring a school bag to school which will be kept beside them at their own workstation. Mid-morning snacks will be kept in school bags until playtime.

**Should my child bring a lunch box/water bottle to school?**

If your child will be bringing a packed lunch from home each day this may be brought to school in a lunchbox which must be taken home each day to be cleaned or a plastic bag which can be binned after use. All children should bring a **filled** water bottle to school and take this home each day to be cleaned. This will be kept at your child’s own workstation. Please note there will be no operational water fountains in the school.

**Should my child bring a pencil case to school?**

We will provide all the necessary stationery resources for your child’s learning therefore a pencil case is not required however should you wish to provide additional stationary it can be kept at their own work station.

**Should my child bring other personal belongings?**

We ask that children do not bring any other unnecessary personal items to school. This will help support our good hygiene and cleaning protocols.

**What are the playtime and lunchtime arrangements?**

Recreational play times will be staggered across the day. Children will be taken outside by an adult – teachers and/or support staff. Our playground will operate in zones to maximise the safety of children and staff. Children will only play with children in the same class as themselves.

**Will there be a breakfast club in session 20/21?**

Initially there will be no breakfast club facility in operation. This will be kept under review and will be re-instated as soon as it is safe to do so. Parents will be advised.

**Will my child be given homework to complete?**

The nature of homework tasks will be reviewed by SMT and staff in August 2020.

**What about children with additional support needs?**

Pupils with Additional Support Needs will continue to have their needs met as outlined in their individual support plan. Parents will continue to be fully involved in the support planning process.

**Will First Aid be provided if required?**

First Aid will be available in line with our current practice and current COVID-19 guidance.

**What about administration of essential medication?**

Only children who require medication for specific conditions, as detailed on their health care plan, will have this administered. Parents will be contacted directly to discuss this should this apply to their child. Children who require to use an EpiPen or an inhaler should always keep this on their person.

**What happens if my child becomes unwell in school?**

If your child becomes unwell in school, you will be contacted to collect them as soon as possible. If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they will be required to remain in isolation in a specific room away from others, which has been identified for this purpose. Alternative toilet facilities will also be provided. Your child will be supervised by an adult during this time.

**Can Parents still visit the building?**

Regrettably no visitors can be received into the school building at present unless there are exceptional circumstances.

**What if I need to pass on information to my child’s teacher?**

Information can be passed to the school office by telephone (0300 300 0180) or emailed to stcatherinesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk Please clearly mark correspondence with the staff members name that the information is intended for.

**What if I need to speak to a member of Senior Management Team?**

Should you need to speak to a senior member of staff team this can be done by arrangement using telephone or video call. Please contact the school office by telephone (0300 300 0180) to arrange a suitable time for this to be scheduled.

**Will the school operational hours remain the same?**

The school day will run from approximately 9am to 3pm. In order to accommodate our current staffing and social distancing measures we will be carrying out a soft entry/exit. You will be asked to bring your child to school between 8.45am-9.00am and to use your child’s classroom fire doors for drop off and collection. Please look for the appropriate door which will be clearly labelled and **adhere to social distancing**.

All children can be collected from the same door from 3.00-3.10pm and we would again ask that you adhere to social distancing and **not gather in the playground/entrances**. The school car park is currently not permitted for use by parents.

**What are the drop off and pick-up arrangements?**

We intend to allow parents/carers to enter the playground to drop off or collect their children, especially if they are in younger classes. Where possible, older pupils (P4-7) can enter and exit the playground unaccompanied by an adult. **Please ensure your child knows their arrangements for the end of each day, who is collecting them from school, if they are meeting at an arranged place or if they are walking home. Remember parents are not permitted to use the school car park at this time.**

Staff will be in attendance at the entry and exit points and only the child will be able to enter the school building.

It is important that only **one adult** accompanies/collects your child to school at the beginning & end of each day.

**What happens if I am late to drop off in the morning?**

It is imperative that children arrive each day during the allocated times. This avoids congestion. If you have missed your child’s allocated timeslot, please contact the school office and we can arrange for someone to meet your child and welcome them into the building.

**What happens if I am late to collect my child at the end of the day?**

It is imperative that children depart at the allocated times to avoid impacting on the allocated pick-up times of others and avoid creating congestion. Once children have left the building with their adult escort they will not be permitted to re-enter. If you are late to collect your child, please contact the school office by telephone and we will arrange for your child to be supervised until you are able to collect them. We will agree a meeting point with you to avoid you having to enter the building.

**Will there be any extra-curricular clubs at the end of the school day?**

There will be no extra-curricular clubs in the school. This will be kept under review and will be re-instated as soon as it is safe to do so. Parents will be advised.

**How long will these changes remain in place?**

These changes will remain in place until further advice is provided by the Scottish Government in relation to social distancing. Please be assured the changes will be kept under review and relaxed as soon as it is safe to do so in partnership with Renfrewshire Council Children’s Services. We look forward to resuming a traditional schooling model as soon as we are safely able to do so.

We hope to be able to implement all of these changes in the most child friendly and welcoming manner. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions regarding any of this information.

Many thanks

Mrs Henry