



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham SR8 1DE

Tel. 0191 5862264: Fax. 0191 5182537

Acting Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Graham

olotr@durhamlearning.net www.ourladyrosary.org.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Return to School – All Pupils – Monday 8th March 2021

Following the Government’s announcement on Monday 22nd February, we look forward to all the children returning to school on Monday 8th March 2021.

We would like to thank you for all your support over what has been a very challenging start to the Spring Term and are especially grateful to all those parents and carers who have supported their children when learning from home.

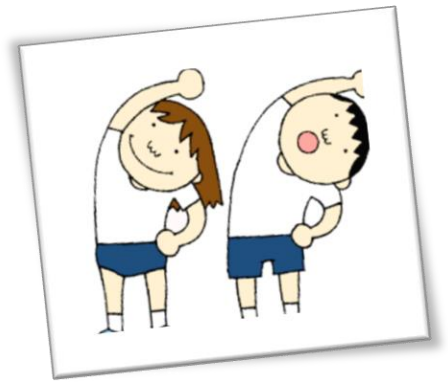
Pick-up and Drop-off Arrangements-March 2021

	Entrance / Exit	Start time	Finish time
Nursery	Nursery Front Door, enter school via pedestrian gate.	8:40am 12:25pm	11:40 am 3:25 pm
Reception	As usual via side door, pupils met at the school gate.	8.55am	2.55pm
Year 1	As usual via side door, pupils met at the school gate.	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 2	As usual via left hand side door, pupils met at the school gate.	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 2/3	Lower school yard left hand side door.	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 3	Lower school yard left hand side door.	8.50am	3.20pm
Year 4	KS2 building Left hand side door, pupils met at the school gate.	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 5	KS2 building Left hand side door, pupils met at the school gate.	9.00am	3.30pm
Year 6	School driveway and pupils enter school from the carpark.	9.00am	3.30pm
After school clubs (when re-introduced)	Arrival and pick up via pedestrian gate.		Pick up, parents need to telephone school mobile and your child will be brought out to you.

If a child has a sibling in a class with a different start/finish time, those families are allowed to drop off their children at the earlier time and finish at the later time each day rather than standing around waiting for another sibling to start/finish. We have a list of which children will require this and only the children on the list will be allowed to arrive early or be picked up late. We did notice before we broke up for our Christmas holidays, that some children were arriving much earlier for school than they should have been. Please ensure that you bring your child for their correct start time. This is to limit the number of adults dropping off and picking up their children to allow social distancing. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Children MUST come dressed in PE kit on their PE day.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Y1 Y2 Y3 Y5 Y6	Y4 Y5 (2 nd session) Y6 (2 nd session)
On a PE day your child must come to school in a tracksuit or jogging bottoms and school sweatshirt as PE will be outside as much as possible. They must wear suitable footwear ie. trainers. Please send spare shoes/footwear into school in case these become very muddy.	



Uniform

- Please send children to school in their uniform each day. There is no requirement for uniforms to be cleaned any more than usual.
- Drinking water will be provided each day (children need to bring in a disposable water bottle which they can take home to be refilled).
- Children will **not** bring anything else from home as everything will be provided – i.e. no school bags (other than book bags), stationery, mobile phones.
- If parents have been unable to purchase new uniform and children have outgrown uniform from September, we are happy to be relaxed about this until a new one can be purchased.
- As they will be outdoors a good deal, a coat **will be** required.
- Please ensure that all long hair is tied up, plaits or “buns” are particularly suitable to reduce risk of viral transmission. **No extra bows or ribbons are to be put into your child’s hair.**
- **No earrings or jewellery as per normal school policy.**
- We request that children **do not** wear face masks or coverings **whilst in school**, if masks are worn for the journey to school we politely request that parents keep the mask at drop off time and that it is **not** brought into school with the child.

Guidance released by the DFE recommends face coverings for adults and secondary pupils in communal areas and corridors. Primary children under 11 are not currently required to wear face coverings. Staff, visitors and parents entering our school will be required to wear face coverings in all communal areas and corridors. Face coverings will not generally be worn in classrooms. This will be under constant review.

PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE WITH FURTHER GUIDANCE AND OUR MOST UP TO DATE RISK ASSESSMENTS.

Please note we expect all parents and carers to make sure that they:

- Avoid congregating by the school entrance and exit gates
- Follow our one-way system and only use the designated entry and exit gates.
- Maintain social distancing on the school site by keeping at least 2 metres apart from anyone who is not in their family group.
- Always wear face coverings when on the school premises unless exempt from doing so.
- Avoid having conversations with the teachers at drop-off and pick-up times and allow children to enter their classes independently-contact the office for any concerns and questions please.
- Ensure that only one adult accompanies each child and allow children in Year 6 to come into school independently.

It is vital that all members of our school community take full responsibility for following our expectations and current lockdown rules in order to keep everyone as safe as possible and help to avoid further disruption to the children’s learning. We know you will support us fully with this.

School Office and Communication with Teachers

Parents and carers will not be permitted to come into the school building unless invited to attend meetings. If you would like to speak to a member of staff, please contact them via Class Dojo, email the School Office or call the School Office during the school day.

Sensible Parking

We are increasingly concerned about the parking situation around the school and this is before everyone returns! I appreciate parking near school is difficult. I would encourage you to either walk or park a little further from school to enable the near vicinity of the school to have less parked cars.

Helping pupils catch up

The return of all pupils to face-to-face education in Our lady of the Rosary will focus on a broad and balanced curriculum with particular acceleration for those children who we identify. I know how hard working our children are and they will soon be in a strong habit of learning.

If your child has borrowed a device from school (laptop/dongle), please ensure that this is brought back (with charger) by **Easter** so the children can continue to use them with their homework.

Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus (COVID-19) do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, we all need to play our part to help protect each other. On Sunday 28 February, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that from Monday 1 March, households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including child care and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8 March. The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed:

- via employers if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

As a school we **cannot** give test kits to parents. This [guidance](#) provides information on who can be tested and how you can get a test. If you choose to use the LFT that is available you do not need to let us know the result, unless it is positive. You would then follow government guidance which includes self- isolation for the entire support bubble and seek a confirmation test.

Year Group Bubbles

The children will be taught in Year Groups Bubbles to avoid contact between different groups of pupils during the school day. Arrangements will include:

- Limited movement of children around the school building
- Staggered break and separate lunchtimes for Year Groups
- The continuation of rigorous hygiene and cleaning routines

All children will be expected to return wearing full school uniform and full PE kit for allocated PE days.

Testing and Availability of Staff

The school will continue to follow a rigorous Risk Assessment and staff working in school are offered will take a Lateral Flow Test for Covid -19 twice a week.

The school will operate with all staff who are available to work. There are some staff who fall under the shielding category who will continue to support the children's learning by working remotely from home.

Staffing changes

Mrs Taylor, Miss Dalton and Mrs Jones will be sending out a message via Class dojo with regards to whose class your child will be in from Monday 8th March. We have also had to make some changes to the Year 4 classes who will be taught by Miss O' Connor and Mr Bowdler.

Wrap around clubs

Our wrap around care will start to operate from Monday depending upon staffing availability and requests. Whilst the provision will have children from different year groups, when the children are inside we will keep children separated from those in other year groups.

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day this year on Wednesday 10th March. The theme this year is 'Come as your favourite book character' Different exciting activities will take place throughout the day.



Returning emotions

We are very excited to welcome all the children back. Some will be excited and ready to return, some will feel apprehensive and a bit anxious. Both emotions are natural. Please don't worry if your child expresses either one of these emotions. It is important they return, please reach out if we can support you. From 8th March it is in law that your child returns to school so we expect to see all children. **Therefore, your child must attend unless they are experiencing coronavirus symptoms and/or isolating or are otherwise unwell.**

We do appreciate how challenging and frustrating this latest lockdown has been for so many, so thank you once again for your continued support and understanding. It has been very much appreciated. The staff are looking forward to seeing the children in school, in person, once again. With the weather improving and vaccinations continuing to be rolled out, we hope to return to some form of normality soon.

Please read carefully the attached overview of the measures in school and our up to date risk assessment and would once again request your support in ensuring that these are adhered to so that all in our school community are as safe as they can be.

We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school and can't wait to see their smiling faces (and yours of course!).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Graham
Executive Acting Headteacher

Mrs Sutherland
Deputy Headteacher

