

Hello!

I hope you have all been able to enjoy the school holidays.

It is now time to look forward to September and to think about what returning to school will look like.

You may already be aware that the Government intend that all children should return to school in September and experience school-based learning as once before.

Liverpool City Council is (LCC) working hard to ensure that as many children as possible return to school in September but only if safety for all children and staff members can be provided for.

In line with LCC, school leaders at St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School are keen that all children and adults can return to school with as much "normality" as possible; in so far as it is safe for all. Keeping everyone safe is the first priority for us all.

LCC is meeting with Liverpool Headteachers next week to finalise arrangements for the return of all children to their schools. Any plans mentioned below may be subject to change following that meeting. Any changes will be shared with you.

Planned arrangements for all children returning to school, autumn 2020

Q. When do the children return to school?

A. Y1 – Y6 children: Thursday 3rd September
N & R children: Monday 7th September

Q. When does my child start and leave school? Which door will my child enter and exit from?

A.

Class	Morning drop-off time	Afternoon pick-up time	Entrance/ exit door
N	8:50 – 9:00	3:10	EYFS door
R	8:50 – 9:00	3:10	EYFS door
Y1	8:45	3:05	KS1 door
Y2	8:50	3:10	KS1 door
Y3	8:45	3:05	KS2 door
Y4	8:50	3:10	KS2 door
Y5	8:55	3:15	KS2 door
Y6	8:55	3:15	KS1 door

These changes to the more familiar start and end routines of each day are key in helping children enter and leave the building safely, with some distance from others not in their class. To keep everyone safe please keep to these timings. This will help with maintaining social distancing.

Q. Will my child have to wear school uniform?

A.

Yes. All children will be expected to wear FULL WINTER SCHOOL uniform (including black shoes) each day. It will be important that uniforms are clean each day so as to prevent/ limit the spread of germs.

On the day a class has PE it will be possible for your child to come to school wearing their SCHOOL PE KIT. A suitable tracksuit can be worn over the PE kit during cold weather. This will mean that children are not changing for PE, thereby limiting the possibility of germ-transference (eg. By a child touching the clothes of another child).

Q. Can I (or my representative) come onto the school playground or into the building?

A.

Playground

Parents and carers, as much as possible, are not encouraged to come onto the playground and/ or to linger for any length of time. If you feel you need to come on to school premises, parents/ carers will be made aware of arrangements to facilitate social distancing. Please adhere to all safety measures.

School office

Parents and carers are able to enter the school Reception one-at-a-time. Appropriate signage will inform parents and carers as to where to wait etc.

Enquiries

As much as possible, please contact school via telephone or email.

Tel: 0151 727 3963,

Email: finbars-rec@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk/ finbars-ao@st-finbars.liverpool.sch.uk

Q. What items can my child bring into school?

A. Children can only bring in the following from home;

- School reading books (in a suitable book bag)
- Water bottles (labelled with child's name)

Q. What is being done to keep my child safe?

A. Some of the safety measures in place include the following:

- Hand sanitiser units are installed around the building – children will use the sanitiser on entry to school (no need to bring their own in from home)
- Frequent hand washing routine in place
- Soap, sanitiser gel and disposable hand towels are available in each classroom
- Each class is deemed to be a bubble (N and R will be a self-contained bubble). Plans are in place to ensure that bubbles do not mix; thereby limiting and germ-transference
- Each child will be given an individual pack of resources which only they can use
- Other classroom resources will be used minimally
- As much outdoor learning to take place as possible
- Rigorous cleaning regime in place; each room used, all corridors used etc disinfected and steam-cleaned each morning and evening. Fogging (emission of disinfectant droplets into the atmosphere by a machine) will take place in each room/ space twice a week. The amount of solution used cannot harm us but can make us cough so this will only be done when children have left the building. Therefore, we ask that you collect your child promptly every day.
- Each class (bubble) will be allocated their own toilet
- Risk assessment in place that has been quality-approved and passed by school governors and the Liverpool Health and Safety Unit. *(Available on school website).*

Q. What is a 'bubble' and what do they do?

A. A bubble is a self-contained unit of children. In our school, each class is a bubble; except for N and R who form one EYFS bubble. School staff members are allowed to move between bubbles with some restrictions.

The purpose of a bubble is to facilitate "track and trace" in the event that someone develops Covid-19. Schools are required to keep records of bubbles and any change in staffing etc.

Your child will remain in these bubbles all day and can mix when they are in their class bubbles. They will not be expected to remain at distance when they are in their class bubble. Brief walking close contact between bubbles, such as passing in a corridor, is considered an acceptable low risk.

Q. What will happen at lunchtimes and playtimes?

A.

Playtimes: All bubbles will enjoy access to outdoor playtimes (weather – dependant). Times will be staggered so that bubbles cannot mix.

Lunchtimes: Children will continue to be allowed to have a hot dinner or bring in a packed lunch. Lunchtimes will be staggered so that different bubbles cannot mix. The lunch hall will be cleaned during sittings.

Dinner money will resume from September. Children in Years 3-6 will need to pay dinner money. Please send your child's dinner money in on Mondays in a sealed envelope with your child's name on.

Q. What do I need to do if I think my child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) because of a change in my circumstances?

A. We would advise that if you think you are entitled to Free School Meals then please apply online at the below address –

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/application-form/>

Q. Will my child have to come to school every day?

A. Yes. The government expect that all children return to full-time school-based education from the autumn term on. The legal obligations placed on parents/ carers, schools and Local Authorities have been reinstated.

Q. What will happen if I do not send my child to school?

A. All schools and local authorities have been instructed to return to pre-lockdown procedures. This means that parents/ carers will be subject to the actions in our school Attendance Policy. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to use the local authority's statutory interventions to support regular attendance at school (including the use of fines)

Q. Will my child be able to attend breakfast club and after-school clubs?

A. Not straight away. Once further guidance is given regarding this additional provision, arrangements will be made to enable them to happen.

Q. What do I need to do if my child becomes unwell?

A. Continue to follow our school procedures by ringing school (0151 727 3963) to let us know the reason for the absence.

If we do not hear from you by 9:10 am we will contact you via phone to find out why. If we cannot get in touch we will visit your house to check that you are all ok. As you know, non-attendance at school is a matter of safeguarding.

Q. What will happen if someone develops Covid-19 in school?

- A. School will follow all procedures as advised by LCC. Such actions include;
- keeping the identified person isolated until they can go home
 - contacting relevant parents then informing other parents across the class and school
 - informing LCC who will inform 'Public Health Liverpool'

Further, more detailed information, will be shared with you once we are returned to school.

Q. What can I do to help school keep my child safe?

- A. There is much that you can do. Such things include (and are not limited to);
- Following national and local guidance regarding social distancing
 - Following and sticking to school safety measures/ requests; being flexible and understanding when changes are made
 - Limiting/ monitoring what your child does, with whom and where after school. *Can you be sure that they are keeping to social distancing and good hygiene rules if they are not with you?*
 - As much as possible, ensure that your child's school uniform is as clean as it can be.
 - Helping your child get into good hygiene routines at home e.g. not touching their face, using a tissue when sneezing, washing hands before and after eating/ going to the toilet etc.

I hope that this information is of use and has helped ease your mind with regards to your child returning to school in September.

As we return to school following the national lockdown we are embarking on a new type of journey, which will require a different mind-set when thinking about being at school. Being flexible, working together in partnership and understanding that changes may well be made more frequently will be so important. We all want everyone to stay as safe as possible.

Please share this information with your child. Knowing what lies ahead is important in removing some of their anxiety and a barrier to learning. Once your child has been in school a few days you will likely see much of any worries melt away. Being with their friends and in a known routine will weave their magic on your child ... and you!

I hope you enjoy the last week of the school holidays and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Take care and God bless

J P Conley
Headteacher