

Archdiocese of Birmingham
St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School and Nursery
Headteacher: Mr A Crehan



Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB

**School Reopening:
Key Information for Parents**

3rd June 2020

Dear Parents

We have had a busy few weeks at school preparing for more children to return. The Governors met today to finalise plans and go through our detailed risk assessment.

I can confirm that school will **open on 8th June** to more pupils. We will do this in a gradual way to ensure the health and safety of all of our school community.

We have made one change to the return to school. The Governors felt that we needed even more stringent cleaning measures for the whole building. To ensure this can take place, **school will be closed to the majority of pupils each Friday**, so that a deep clean of the site can take place. School will have a childcare provision for the already pre-arranged 'key-worker' bubble on this day.

I have attached more information specific to each year group so that you can make an informed choice about sending your child back to school.

I will also be sending out a survey which will need to be completed by:

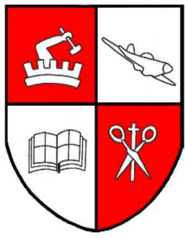
3.00pm TOMORROW (Thursday 4th June).

If you do not respond to this survey, we will be unable to offer your child a place in school next week, this is explained clearly in the attached information.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

God bless.

A Crehan
Headteacher



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School Reopening: 'Frequently Asked Questions'

Do children have to attend school?

No. We recognise that this is an anxious time for parents and there are still many questions unanswered. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance.

Can I choose when my child comes to school?

Once you have agreed to take a place, your child is expected to attend as normal.

What will happen to the current group of vulnerable children and children of key workers?

These children will continue to attend school although they can be in classes with their peers if their year group is one of the classes to reopen.

If your child has a sibling that is due to come in at 9.30am, you can still drop both children off at 9.00am and pick them up at 3.00pm from the normal 'Keyworker Gate (Gate F)'.

Does the current group of vulnerable children and children of key workers need to wear uniform?

Yes. They should wear summer uniform or school PE kit to school. It should be clean each day. They can bring a coat if necessary.

Can you guarantee my child will not catch Covid-19?

No, we can't. We can minimise the risk through the range of protective measures we are putting in place but we cannot guarantee that children or adults will not become infected at school.

What are the arrangements for additional cleaning?

Additional cleaners will be on site for regular cleaning of contact points and for more thorough cleaning at the end of each day. We will also close the site for the majority of children and staff, and have a 'deep clean' every Friday.

Hand washing and hygiene - how often will children be washing hands and is there enough supply?

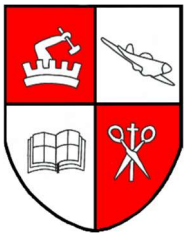
Children will be required to wash/sanitise their hands upon entry to school, at regular intervals throughout the day, every time they go to the toilet and before and after meal times. We have an adequate supply of soap and hand-gel in the school. Dryers will be turned off in bathrooms and children will use paper towels to dry their hands.

Siblings in other year groups. Will they be able to attend as well?

Children from Years 2, 3, 4, and 5 will not be able to return to school unless they are in the vulnerable category or the child of a key worker and have had it pre-arranged by the school.

How will playtimes and lunchtimes be organised?

Playtimes, lunchtimes and time outside will be staggered to ensure that children in "bubbles" do not mix. Where more than one group is outside, groups will be kept apart using zoning. Detailed arrangements for lunch can be found in specific year group guidance.



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Will staff be wearing masks?

Staff will not be required to wear masks but PPE will be used in the event of dealing with any child or member of staff displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or requiring close First Aid / toileting issues.

Will children have to wear masks?

No.

Will children be able to wear their own face masks?

No. Based on DfE guidance supported by scientists, there is evidence that masks worn incorrectly can increase the risk of infection to the wearer and are therefore not suitable for younger children.

My child is ill, but they do not have symptoms of Covid-19, what do I do?

Call school to report their absence as you normally would, the office staff will advise you further if needed.

I would like to speak to the Headteacher, my child's teacher or a member of the office staff – how do I do this?

Parents will not be allowed onto the school site. We are happy to talk to you over the phone, or by email. Please call the office to arrange this on 0121 464 2613 or by email, enquiry@stgerard.bham.sch.uk.