

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



Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB

25th August 2020

September Opening

Dear Parents

I hope you have had a good summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming back all of the children in September. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the essential things you need to know ahead of the start of term.

Attendance

All children, in all year groups, will **return to school full time in September**. The Department for Education states that, *"School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. This means that it is **your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly.**"*

For St Gerard's this means we will open as shown below:

Wednesday 2nd September 2020: Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will return to school.

Thursday 3rd September 2020: Reception children will start school.

Monday 7th September 2020: Nursery children will begin part-time.

Your child will go straight into their new classes.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

We really need your support to keep our entire community safe. If your child, or anyone in their household is showing a symptom of Coronavirus (Covid-19), **DO NOT send them to school.**

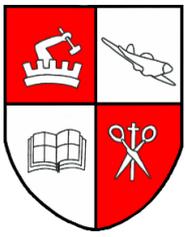
The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child develops any of these symptoms in school they will be sent home and you will need to arrange for them to be tested. You will need to inform us of the outcome of the test as soon as possible.

Uniform

Children are expected to wear full school uniform in September. They will need to have their PE kits in school ready for their PE lessons. We do not expect them to wear any jewellery or have hairstyles that are not part of our normal school policy. If you are unsure of any items, please see our prospectus on the school website. During the start of the Autumn Term, most children wear the 'Summer Uniform'. Children will need their book bags as they will receive homework and reading books as normal.



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Drop off & Collection

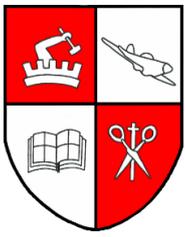
Drop off will be between 8.40am – 9.00am. At 8.40am all gates on our site will be open and a member of staff will be on duty. **You can drop your child off at any gate** and they will **make their own way** into the classrooms. There will be lots of adults to direct the children and teachers will be waiting for them in class with a morning task. **In the mornings, parents will not be allowed on site**, and in order to avoid congestion, **the staff on gates will not be taking messages.** If you need to pass anything urgently on to the teacher you will need to call the office or email us the night before.

For Reception children's transition days on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September, parents can bring their child through the 'visitor's gates' on Renfrew Square, where a member of staff will be there to greet you.

Collection times will be staggered to reduce congestion. We will allow parents to congregate, at a social distance, on the main playground. **Only one adult per family will be allowed to come onto the school site.** We will mark an area for you and ask that you do not come close to the doors. Teachers will dismiss children from specific exits which will be labelled. **The children will come to you.** The table below shows where they will be dismissed from to help you decide where to wait. Please aim to collect your children at these times. Do not come too early or late as this will cause unnecessary congestion.

Year Group	Time	Exit Location
Nursery	3.00pm	Nursery main entrance
Reception	3.05pm	Reception Playground (Yellow Gates)
Year 1	3.05pm	Exit A (KS2 doors)
Year 2	3.05pm	Exit C (KS1 doors)
Year 3	3.10pm	Exit B (Main entrance)
Year 4	3.10pm	Exit A (KS2 Doors)
Year 5	3.15pm	Exit A (KS2 Doors)
Year 6	3.15pm	Exit B (Main Entrance)





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Once you have collected your child, we ask you to leave the site as quickly as possible, supervising your children at all times. If you have children in multiple classes you will have to wait in the parent area, we cannot arrange for the children to come out together. Please **do not let children play** as there will not be room and we must social distance. **Please dress for the weather**, you will not be able to congregate under the covers by the doors. If you need to speak to a member of staff after school, please call the school office when you get home. **We cannot allow adults in the building without making an appointment.**

Lunches

School dinners will be available from the kitchen. In September, parents **cannot** come to the school office. We are currently trying to set up a contactless system and will give you more information on this in September. In the meantime, if your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6, and would like a school dinner, you will need to send the money into school with them. This will need to be the correct money, in a clearly-labelled envelope. The school dinner amount for this year is £12 a week. If your child normally has a packed lunch, they can bring this in as normal. Children can bring a clean water bottle each day.

Face Masks

The Government has stated that primary aged children **do not** need to wear face coverings. Research has shown they could actually increase the risk of infection for children and obstruct their learning. **Please do not send your child to school with a face covering.**

Order collections

If you have ordered uniform via the online system, you can collect your order on Tuesday 1st September between 12.30pm – 3.30pm. You will need to go to the staff car park gate and press the buzzer. A member of staff will come out to meet you and give you your order.

In order to return to school safely, we will require your full support and patience. All the changes we have made are a direct response to government guidance to try and make school as safe a place as we can for all of our families and staff. I know that I can rely on your support, patience and cooperation in September. We will be constantly reviewing the processes as the term progresses.

The Department for Education are encouraging parents to visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool) for information and practical guidance to help you plan for your child's return to school.

If you have any questions about your child's return to school, please email enquiry@stgerard.bham.sch.uk and we will try and answer any of your concerns.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

A Crehan
Headteacher