



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

"Shine as to be a light to others"



Head Teacher: Mrs C. Dickinson

COVID – 19 UPDATE: Returning to School September 2020

Monday 31st August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School Update

I hope you and your family are all well and have been able to enjoy the summer break. We have greatly missed the children and are looking forward to their return on Thursday 3rd September. We want all our children to come back in September. It is vital for their well-being and education. Prolonged periods of absence can affect not only your child's ability to learn now, but also their future ability to learn.

We understand that this is an anxious time for you and your child. Please be assured that the school will do all it can to alleviate any worries or concerns.

Following on from the information sent in the newsletter dated Friday 17th July, we have continued to extensively updated our risk assessments and procedures in accordance with the Department of Education (DFE), Public Health England, Birmingham City Council and on-going government guidance. The DFE has published the scientific advice behind their decisions in the following document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885631/Overview_of_scientific_advice_and_information_on_coronavirus_COVID19.pdf

To help aid the smooth and effective full re-opening of our school, there are a number of updated rules which must be adhered to by staff, families and children in order to maintain and keep our working environment as safe and hygienic as possible.

Please note, all information is subject to change and is dependent on Government directives as they are updated.

We welcome the Government's plan and expectation for all children to return in September, however there are many changes to the general organisation of school, including staggered start and end of the school day timings to ensure the safety and health of all our school family.

Start and End of Day Timings

- In order for our new timings to run smoothly, **it is essential that your child is dropped off and collected on time.**
- A member of staff will be located at each entrance at the beginning and end of the school day.
- After you have dropped off or collected your child, please leave the school premises, and the areas surrounding the school promptly in order to avoid congestion outside school and to ensure social distancing is maintained. **Your anticipated cooperation is greatly appreciated.**

Class Timings

<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Start of the day</u>	<u>Finish Time</u>	<u>End of the Day</u>
8:30	6	Entrance via gate on Monument Road and straight into classroom.	2:30	Exit via gate on Monument Road.
8:45	5	Entrance via gate on Monument Road and then through Y5/Y4 cloakrooms.	2:45	Exit via gate on Monument Road.
8:45	Rec	Entrance via double gates on Oliver Road through KS1 Playground and into EYFS unit.	2:45	Exit via KS1 playground, through double gates to Oliver Road.
9:00	1	Entrance via main school gate on Oliver Road.	3:00	Exit via main school gate on Oliver Road and through main car park gate.
9:00	4	Entrance via gate on Monument Road and then through Y5/Y4 cloakrooms.	3:00	Exit via gate on Monument Road.
9:15	2	Entrance through main school gate on Oliver Road.	3:15	Exit via main school gate on Oliver Road and through main car park gate.
9:15	3	Entrance via main school gate on Oliver Road.	3:15	Exit via gate on Monument Road.

- All children must be accompanied by an adult and dropped off and collected at the designated entrance. **Except for children in Year 6. If you wish your child to walk to and from school, on their own, please complete the form attached to this letter and return it to school on Thursday 3rd September.**
- For anyone using public transport to get to or from school – please read the Government advice at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- All adults will be expected to **keep to a strict 2 metre distance when dropping off and collecting**. Please adhere to this and stand by the footprints and tape on the school railings outside the school and on the school premises.
- **Only one adult per child will be allowed onto school premises** to drop off and collect, except for our new Reception children during the first two weeks of school.
- Parents and carers will not be able to have the same casual ‘drop in’ conversations with staff at the beginning and end of the school day. **The office will be closed to parents and carers, except by phone.** If you need to speak to a member of staff, it will either have to be by telephone, or by making an appointment, so an appropriate time and socially distanced space can be arranged. **In order to make an appointment please call school on 0121 454 0600 or email us on communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk**
- No parents or carers will be allowed inside the school building unless by prior appointment.

- **We ask you not to meet and socialise by the school gates** because this will increase the risk of children coming into contact with children from other Phase Bubbles.
- **It is vital that your child starts attending school each day from Thursday 3rd September.** If your child cannot attend school, please call school before 8:00am on **454 0600** or email s.yaman@oratory.bham.sch.uk
- **Children must only bring these items into school:** coat or jacket and a lunch box if they are not having a school dinner. **No other items are allowed and this includes mobile phones and stationery.** This will help to reduce cross contamination.

School Uniform and PE Kit

- Children must wear school uniform.
- **PE Kit must only be brought into school on the day your child has PE and then taken home to be washed.** More information on this will follow on Friday 4th September. **Children must not bring their PE kit to school on Thursday 3rd September.**

Families with more than one child; who have different start and end of day times

- If you have more than one child and their class start and end of day times are not the same, we are able to offer **support in the following way for working parents and carers:**
 - Short term (max 30mins) childcare. For example, you have one child in Y5 (start time 8:45am, collection time 2:45pm), and a child in Y1 (start time 9am, collection time 3pm). Both children can come to school at 8:45am and be collected at 3pm.
 - **If you wish to avail yourself of this support please email communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk by Wednesday 2nd September.** Include the full names of your children and the class they are in. Each family request will be looked at by the Strategic Leadership Team. You will receive an email stating if your request has been successful and further instructions indicating how and where to bring and collect your children each day.
 - **We have a maximum of 25 spaces.**
 - Please note that due to these unprecedented times employers are expected to support employees with children, this includes flexibility in working hours to drop off and collect children at school.

Excellent systems within our school environment are in place that visually remind children about social distancing, an increased level of cleaning, regular hand washing and an abundance of sanitisation points around the school.

We will not be taking children's temperatures on arrival to school. We will only take their temperature if they display any Covid-19 symptoms. We will be following DfE recommendations in how we manage the return to school of all our children. The most recent guidelines state: ***'Schools must minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day as part of implementing the system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission.'*** ***DFE 2nd July 2020.***

These are the recommended ways in which we will manage the safe return of all our children, staff and families:

1. Grouping children in class/phase bubbles.
2. Avoiding contact between classes/phases by revising our daily timetables.
3. Arranging classrooms with forward-facing desks.
4. Staff maintaining distance from our children and other staff as much as possible.
5. Social distancing of parents and carers re. drop off and collection times of their child / children
6. Frequent handwashing and good respiratory hygiene practice
7. Active engagement with NHS Track and Trace

Class / Phase Bubbles

- We are operating class/phase bubbles. All classes will be taught in their own class of 30, and will not be mixing with other children during lesson times. Consequently, this means that we will not be able to organise any large gatherings beyond this number and this will subsequently affect our ability to hold assemblies, workshops, Learning Together days and whole school Masses and performances, at least for the Autumn term.
- In class, the children will be encouraged not to contact each other physically and will have their own set of everyday equipment e.g. pencils, pens, whiteboards. **CHILDREN MUST NOT BRING INTO SCHOOL THEIR OWN PENCIL CASES OR EQUIPMENT.**
- Phase Bubbles will share cloakrooms including washbasins and toilet facilities which will be regularly cleaned:
 - Nursery and Reception (EYFS Phase Bubble)
 - Year 1 and Year 2 (KS1 Phase Bubble)
 - Year 3 and Year 6 (KS2A Phase Bubble)
 - Year 4 and Year 5 (KS2B Phase Bubble)
- Phase Bubbles will have staggered break times and lunchtimes.
- Children will be able to mix with other children from their phase bubble but only in the playground where the risk is further reduced.
- Children will be encouraged to socially distance (as far as possible) within their class/phase bubble.
- Phase bubbles will not mix with one another. For example, KS1 Phase Bubble will not mix with KS2B Phase Bubble.
- If a child displays COVID-19 symptoms in school they will be isolated from their class / phase bubble immediately and their parent or carer called to collect them.
- Please be aware that if a child receives a confirmed positive test for Covid-19 then the whole class or phase, including staff, may be asked to isolate at home for a specific period of time in accordance with government guidance.

Breakfast, Morning and After School Clubs

- For the first half-term (Thursday 3rd September - Friday 23rd October) we are unable to offer Breakfast, Morning or After school clubs. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. We are having to make this decision to ensure the health and safety of all our children, their families and staff.
- Hopefully these clubs will resume after half term but this is very much dependent on a number of factors and government guidance.

Lunch Time

- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to have Universal Free School Meals.
- Those children whose families qualify for free school meals in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 – Year 6) will continue to receive free school meals.
- For the first 12 days of school children will receive a packed lunch. From week commencing Monday 19th September, hot dinners will be available.
- Children in Reception will eat in the EYFS unit.
- Children in the KS1 Phase Bubble will eat in the hall.
- Children in KS2A and KS2B Phase Bubbles will eat in their classrooms.

Frequent Handwashing and Good Respiratory Hygiene, “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”

- There will be **supervised handwashing for the children on several occasions throughout the day**. Soap and water kills the virus.

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze

- Catch it** with a tissue
- Bin it**
- Kill it** by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

- After breaks & sport activities
- Before cooking & eating
- SCHOOL ETC.
- On arrival at any childcare or educational setting
- After using the toilet
- Before leaving home

✓ Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

✓ Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles

✓ If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels

- **We ask parents and carers to support these messages at home**, by reminding the children – and supervising them – to wash their hands properly and regularly.

Finally, I appreciate that this is going to be a period of readjustment for everyone – staff, our children and families. However, by working in partnership, we will ensure our Oratory family continues to grow in love, learning and faith.

If you have any questions or queries please contact the school by emailing communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk and we will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible.

Please remember that every decision we are make is based on trying to keep all of the children in our school, their families and the staff who work with them, as safe as possible.

Keep safe, keep well.

God bless,

Mrs. C. Dickinson
Head Teacher