



NEWSLETTER - Tuesday 2nd March 2021

"Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing"

Trust, Respect, Faith, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Determination, Curiosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot tell you how excited we all are to be welcoming back ALL of our wonderful children on Monday 8th March. All staff are busily preparing our recovery curriculum so that from the outset, we can help children to grow in confidence, well-being and allow them to reconnect with one another and of course, begin to bridge any gaps in learning over time. I am writing to you today, to provide you with all the information that you will need in one place! Some of this information, you will have seen before in other letters/emails, but some will be new. You will find below, information about all upcoming events, alongside the school calendar for the rest of the academic year.

Attendance

As school will have fully reopened as of the 8th March, attendance will be mandatory and our usual attendance policy will apply. We are currently working very hard on completing detailed risk assessments to ensure both pupil and staff safety and well-being. With this in mind, I would be really grateful if you would familiarise yourselves with our staggered drop off and collection times/locations below:

Bubble	Classes	Arrival Time Window	Drop off Point	Collection Time	Collection Point
FS2 Bubble	1	8.40-8.50am	Enter through the double gate onto the KS1 playground closest to the rainbow (colourful) gate and the children will be directed straight into class	3.05pm	Same as drop off point
	2				Through Class 2's fire door located adjacent to the staff car park – enter through the pedestrian gate.
Key Stage 1 Bubble	3	8.40-8.50am	Enter through the main gate onto the KS1 playground and children will be directed straight into classrooms.	3.10pm	Please enter through the pedestrian (car park) gate and collect the children from outside the main office.
	4				Please enter through the pedestrian (car park) gate and collect the children from outside Class 4's fire door
	5				Please enter through the pedestrian gate (car park) and collect the children from outside Class 5's fire door
	6			3.05pm	Please enter through the single gate onto the KS1 playground wait outside Class 6
Lower Key Stage 2 Bubble	7	8.30-8.40am	Enter through the double gate onto the Key Stage 1 playground and go straight in through Class 7/8/9's fire door (as appropriate).	3.10pm	Please enter through the single gate onto the KS1 playground wait in the designated area demarcated by the class number on the floor.
	8				
	9				
Upper Key Stage 2 Bubble	10	8.30-8.40am	Enter through the main gate onto the Key Stage 1 playground and head round onto the KS2 playground.	3.20pm	Please enter through the single gate onto the KS1 playground wait in the designated area demarcated by the class number on the floor.

Please ensure that you exit the KS1 playground via the main gate and enter via your allocated gate only.



St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy
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We respectfully ask that everyone makes every effort to arrive and collect children during their time-slots. Should a pupil arrive late to school, they should be dropped off at the pedestrian gate and should walk into reception unaccompanied. If you would rather, you can drop them off at the door to the main reception area, but please do not enter.

Should you have children attending across more than one bubble (i.e. siblings), please use the earliest arrival time, but stick to the staggered collection time. Year 6 pupils are allowed to walk to and from school on their own, but must have written parental permission to do so. Pupils should hand this written permission into the office or preferably this can be emailed across to admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk.

For safeguarding reasons, older siblings are not allowed to take responsibility for accompanying their younger siblings home. Similarly, we do not allow young people under the age of 16 to collect pupils.

Safety Measures

We will be grouping children into 4 distinct bubbles – FS2, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2. We are doing this to reduce contact between different groups of pupils and to facilitate the stringent cleaning and disinfecting processes we already have in place to ensure that our school is as safe as possible.

In preparation for our re-opening, here are some key points that you need to be aware of. As government guidance evolves, some details may change; we will keep you updated via the school website and via email.

1. You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform school. We advise anyone with symptoms to obtain a test and inform school of the results at the first possible opportunity. Even with a negative test result, pupils with symptoms or living with someone with symptoms will still need to isolate for 10 days.
2. The government has advised walking or cycling to school wherever possible to reduce the use of public transport.
3. Attendance at school will be compulsory for all pupils except in cases where they have received a shielding letter because they are extremely clinically vulnerable.
4. Pupils will not be wearing face coverings in school but staff will, both within classrooms, outside and within communal areas e.g. corridors.
5. Your child will be expected to follow clear behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils, and keeping their hands clean. Pupils will be expected to wash their hands regularly, and/or use hand sanitiser.
6. Our school kitchen will be fully open and lunches will return to normal. Pupils eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school, and will no longer receive lunch vouchers. Lunches will be paid for via ParentMail as usual.
7. Children will be able to bring school bags and lunch boxes to and from school once more. They will also be able to take reading books and homework books to and from school.
8. School uniform (Winter) will worn from the first day onwards; this applies to PE also.
9. There will be staggered starts and endings to the school day. Please use the space around our sets of gates to help maintain social distancing and try to only arrive at your allocated collection/drop off time so as to ease congestion.



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10. Children will need labelled water bottles in school as they will not be able to drink directly from the water fountains.

11. Breaks and lunch times will be staggered so that the children will remain with pupils from their bubble and not mix more widely. Lunches will be eaten in their classrooms to maintain the integrity of their bubble. Children will spend

half of their lunchbreak inside eating their food and taking part in classroom based break activities and then spend half an hour outside with pupils and staff from their bubble. Morning break will be spent outside with pupils and staff from their bubble.

12. Breakfast club and afterschool club will run as normal but will be based within their bubble areas. Children should be dropped off for breakfast club from 7.30am onwards at the school office. They should be collected by 5pm from the same place. No other after school clubs will be running for at least the Lent term.

13. A one-way system will be in operation in the corridors and systems for use of the toilets, regular handwashing and spot cleaning throughout the day will all be worked out. We are being asked to clean surfaces continuously throughout the day and wear PPE for first aid.

14. Children will be asked to wash their hands upon entry and exit from school, when changing classrooms, before and after break and lunchtimes and before and after eating. They may bring in hand sanitiser and hand cream if they are suffering from dry, over washed hands.

15. All parents must wear face masks upon entering the playground. If you are medically exempt, please be prepared to show proof of this. If you are unable to, we will ask that you collect your child from outside the pedestrian gate at 3.30pm.

16. Only 1 adult should be present to collect or drop off their child/ren.

We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning after the 8 weeks out of school. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our school as safe as can be.

Our entire staff team has great expertise both in terms of helping children to catch up but also in terms of pastoral care and I know how dedicated they are in supporting the children back into school.

We can't wait to welcome everyone back, however they are feeling and we will do everything that we can to make sure that the return to school is as safe, smooth and as positive as it can be. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for all pupils and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required.

Although very many of our pupils have worked hard using our remote learning resources and live lessons provided by our dedicated teachers, we are fully aware that some learning may have been lost. With this in mind, we have put together a 'recovery curriculum' that is designed to help pupils to reconnect, build confidence, close gaps and make sure that they get the learning and knowledge that they need to achieve success in the future.

Your children deserve a great and safe education – we will not let them down.

See you on Monday 8th March!



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Mrs Snowdon-Poole
Headteacher

Remote Learning

Remote Learning will continue to be in place should households/pupils need to isolate due to their own symptoms or the symptoms of other household members or in case of bubble closure. We only expect this work to be completed if pupils are well. This work is available on MS Teams in the usual way and more guidance can be found on individual class pages. There will always be two weeks' worth of work available at any one time. We will not be able to provide live lessons where individual pupils are isolating as the class teachers will be teaching their classes. However, where a bubble has closed and the staff are well, live lessons will begin.

World Book Day - Thursday 4th March 2021

On Thursday 4th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. Whether you are at home or school, there will be lots of exciting things for your child/ren to take part in. It will be fancy dress, so your child/ren can dress up as their favourite book character if they wish to do so. It would be great to see as many children at home dressed up for the live sessions! Any donations are greatly appreciated so that we are able to get new and exciting books to read across the school. These can be made via ParentMail>Payments>World Book Day Donations (optional). These donations will help us to update our reading stocks in school for the children to enjoy.

There is a Reading Bingo Competition running throughout the whole of March - this can be seen on our St George's website using the link below:

<https://www.stgeorgescatholicacademy.co.uk/online-library/>

If your child/ren are learning from home, you will receive your £1 book token via email. Those in school, will get a paper version just like last year. We have lots of exciting things planned for this day linked to the book day theme and cannot wait to share them!

Termly Learning Conference Booking - Parents' Evenings for All Pupils - Monday 8th March and Wednesday 10th March 2021

I have great pleasure in inviting you to attend one of our Termly Learning Conferences via video call using the 'School Cloud' system. This call will not only enable you to hear how they have settled in during their first week of whole class learning, but you will also be able to discuss the progress that your child (or children) has/have been making over the past term (whether they have been learning remotely or in school) and find out about the next steps in their learning. Appointments are available on Monday 8th March from 3.30-6pm for EYFS and KS1 pupils and 3.30-7.30pm for KS2 pupils. Appointments are available on Wednesday 10th March from 3.30-5.30pm for EYFS and KS1 pupils and 3.30-6pm for KS2 pupils. Ten minutes have been allocated for each appointment. If you feel that there is more that you wish to discuss, please email the class teacher directly via their class email to arrange a follow up appointment after the termly learning conferences have taken place.

Appointments can be made from **Monday 22nd February at 8am** and will close on **Sunday 7th March at midnight**. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the admin team.

How to book

Please visit <https://stgeorgescva.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments. (A short guide on how to add appointments is included with this letter.) If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.



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First Holy Communion 2021

Application forms will be emailed out to all Key Stage 2 parents over the coming fortnight for families wishing their KS2 children to make their First Holy Communion in late June/early July 2021. If your child has not been baptised, but you would still like your child to make their First Holy Communion, this can be incorporated into the programme. In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please contact Karan O'Connor at officestgeorge@aol.com.

Lenten Giving - CAFOD's 'Walk for Water' Appeal

As part of our Lenten fundraising, we have decided to complete the CAFOD 'Walk for Water' campaign to raise money to help communities around the world to access clean, safe drinking water. Over the next 6 weeks, during this Lenten period, we will be aiming to walk 10,000 steps, every day, for 40 days. We would love for you to join us in this mission and aim to walk the 10,000 steps each day, either by yourself, or as a family.

Of course, this will be a sponsored event so your child/family is encouraged to find as much sponsorship as possible. This can be via the sponsorship form (already emailed out to you) or via our JustGiving Page:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-for-water-with-st-georges-and-cafod-this>

All proceeds will be donated to CAFOD and will help in the following ways:

How can your sponsorship help?

- **£10** can buy a water container for a family
- **£40** could buy safe water for a school
- **£200** could buy bikes for a team of three water engineers to service water pumps in remote communities
- **£750** could bring water to an entire community

City-Wide Transition Day plans - July 2021

All schools across the city are rolling out 3 consecutive days of transition for Year 6 pupils going to secondary schools located within Derby City. This move will allow us to increase the number of days that children in all year groups spend in their new classes in July from just one day to three, on the following dates: Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th of July. This should help children to feel more settled and ready for the start of the new academic year. We will also be welcoming our new FS2 pupils into school on these days. More information will be sent out to families closer to the time.

Uniform Update

After the Easter holiday, children should return wearing our summer uniform. For girls, this consists of a blue and white checked dress (not jump suits or culottes), a royal blue cardigan, white socks and black shoes. For boys, this consists of a royal blue, v-neck jumper, royal blue tie, a white shirt (short or long sleeved), grey trousers or shorts and black shoes.

Please do ensure that all items of uniform are labelled. Children do need to come to school in full school uniform without exception. Uniform can be purchased from 'Uniform Direct' on Babbington Lane. Uniform can also be obtained via their website at www.uniform-direct.com. Uniform is no longer sold in school.

With the possible reopening of shops and personal care services during the Easter holidays, naturally this is often the time when children will visit the hairdresser for a new haircut and the shoe shop for new school shoes. Just a reminder then, that school shoes should be black, closed toe and flat. Boots and trainers must not be worn as part of our school uniform. In respect of hairstyles, we must stress that hair dye, tramlines or other shaved patterns are not appropriate for school and should we see pupils with these, we will ask for the styles to be corrected.



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In the past, we have had a few children coming to school with polo t-shirts on instead of school shirts. Our policy is that pupils should wear school shirts only. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Absence Reporting

Please make sure you leave a message informing us of a pupil's absence by 9am. If you cannot be contacted by phone, this may lead to a home visit. This is in line with the latest Safeguarding guidance after a recent serious case review in Hackney. If there is no reply during a home visit, we then have a duty to inform the police. We require a daily phonecall before 9am for the duration of the absence.

We currently have several pupils with compromised immune systems. For this reason, we do need to know immediately should your child suffer from the following illnesses – chicken pox, shingles, flu, measles, sickness and diarrhoea, scarlet fever or 'slapped cheek'. When calling to report your child as absent, the reason for absence must be as specific as possible – e.g. eye infection rather than sick or unwell

St Ralph Sherwin Hardship Fund

The St Ralph Sherwin Trust, a family of 25 Catholic academies, acknowledges the difficulties faced by many of the families we serve, particularly in light of the adverse effects of the Coronavirus on the community. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the launch of the Trust Hardship Fund.

The Hardship Fund is a source of financial help available to all registered full-time students of our academies and intended to help students who are experiencing difficulty through hardship in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits, and residential courses
- Uniform, shoes, or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for academic studies
- Attendance at seminars, interviews, or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses

There is also potential for relieving hardship during recognised Academy holidays by providing access to one free school meal each day for those students.

Students may be eligible to apply for grants from the Hardship Fund if:

- Their household income is less than £25,000 per year
- Their parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits, including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit/Income-Based Employment and Support Allowance/Universal Credit...provided the student is not entitled to Free School Meals
- At the sole discretion of the Headteacher - any student who does not fall under the categories above but considers themselves to be in a state of financial hardship

Further details regarding the Fund, and how to apply, are detailed in the Hardship Fund policy which can be accessed here on our school website:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stgeorgescva/UploadedDocument/86f114fc6d764ed7876ef5dfe3693736/hardship-policy.pdf>



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Dates for your Diary...		
Thursday 4 th March: All day	World Book Day	Dress up as your favourite book character in exchange for £1 donation towards restocking our reading shelves.
Monday 8 th March: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30-7:30pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	Virtual appointments delivered through 'School Cloud'
Wednesday 10 th March: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30-6pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	
Thursday 11 th March: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 18 th March: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Tuesday 30 th March: 8:50am	Class 1 and Class 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of pupils in Classes 1 and 2 will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 1 st April: 9am	Easter Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Wednesday 31 st March so that you can join us online
Friday 2nd April - Friday 16th April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday 19th April	All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term	All pupils
Monday 19th April	All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term	All pupils
Thursday 22 nd April: 8:50am	Class 6 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 6 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 23 rd April: 9am	St George's Day Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Thursday 22 nd April so that you can join up online. Pupils to dress us as dragons, knights, princes, princesses or villagers. No donation required.
Thursday 29 th April: 8:50am	Class 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 5 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Monday 3rd May	May Bank Holiday	School Closed
Thursday 6 th May: 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 20 th May: 8:50am	Class 8 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 8 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 27 th May: 8:50am	Year 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Year 5 pupils in Classes 10 and 11 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June	Pentecost Half term	School Closed
Tuesday 8 th June: 3:30pm	New FS2 Parents Information Event	Parents of new FS2 pupils for September 2021 starts.
Thursday 10 th June: 8:50am	Class 9 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 9 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 17 th June: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 24 th June: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Tuesday 29 th June: 9am	Mass for SS Peter and Paul	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Monday 28 th June so that you can join us online
Thursday 1 st July: 8:50am	Class 1 and 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 1 and 2 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 2 nd July: EYFS and KS1 at 9.30am and KS2 at 1.30pm	Sports Day	Subject to government guidance, more information to follow.
Tuesday 6 th July, Wednesday 7 th and Thursday 8 th : All day	Transition Days	Subject to government guidance, all pupils will spend most of this time in their new classes/schools.
Friday 9 th July: End of Day	Reports go out to parents	All parents and carers
Wednesday 14 th July: 3:30pm -5pm	Reports Consultation Evening	Appointments to be made should you wish to speak to your child's class teacher about something specific on the report.
Wednesday 21 st July: 5pm-7.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Party and Liturgy	Y6 pupils from 5.30-6.30pm We will confirm if parents are able to attend closer to the time, subject to government guidance.
Friday 23 rd July: 9am	End of Year Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Thursday 22 nd July so that you can join us online



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Monday 26 th July 2021 - Thursday 2nd September (Friday 3 rd September is an INSET day)	Summer Holidays	School Closed
Monday 6 th September 2021: All Day	Return to school for the start of Advent term. FS2 - mornings only for the first week	All pupils



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