

# September 2020 Opening St Charles VC Academy



Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Message from Mrs Siedle**

We are almost at the end of the Summer Term and what a strange term it has been. I am amazed how well the pupils, parents/carers and staff have responded to the measures that we have implemented following the ever-changing Government guidelines. Everyone has been so accommodating and this demonstrates the positive, collaborative and supportive community we have here in the school.

As we prepare to end the term, I write to update you with our emerging plans for expanded school reopening. We are so excited to warmly welcome all year groups back to school in September, based on the current national advice from the Government.

Even though this year was cut short we still have so much to celebrate, and the children should feel very proud of themselves and everything they have achieved. Please remember pupils **return to school on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

Our Reception/ Foundation Stage 2 starters have slightly different dates and times, Miss Marsh and Mrs Shears are contacting families about this.

### **Before school**

School book bags ONLY, other than lunchboxes where applicable, are to be brought into school – NO BIG BAGS

- Children will need their PE kit from the beginning of term. Where possible, PE will take place outside so please ensure children have suitable trainers and dark coloured sweatshirt as well as their usual PE kit.
- Prepare and provide a reusable drinks bottle, ensure the child's name is clearly labelled on it and fill with WATER ONLY.

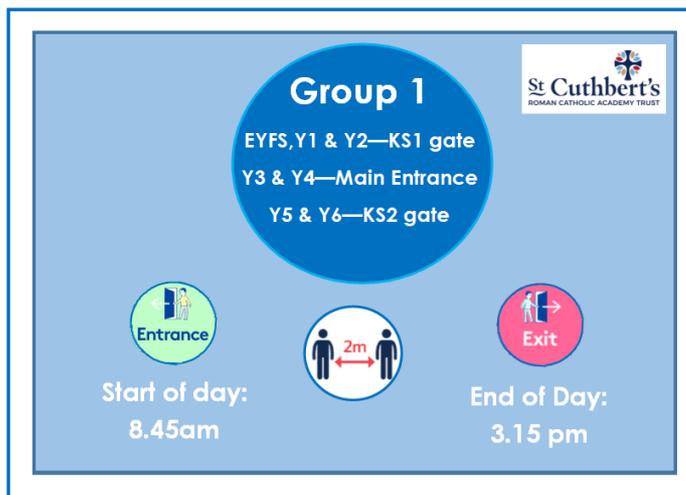
### **The journey to school**

- Please make a note of your start times as these are different. We are asking all parents not to gather outside of the gates.



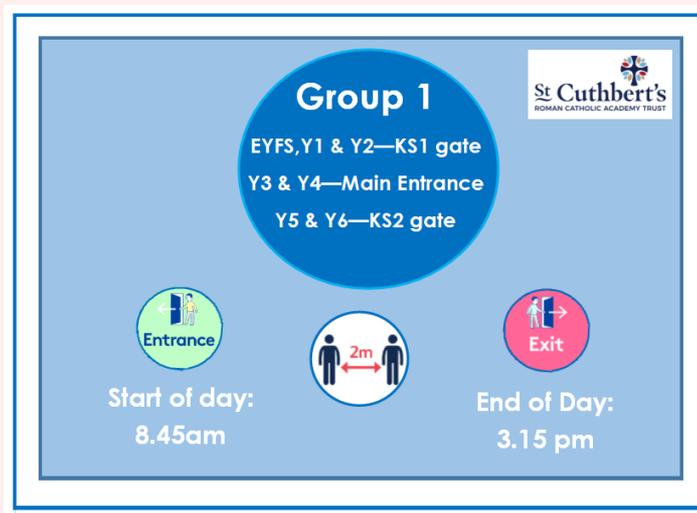
## Arriving at school

### Start of school



- Ensure you arrive at your child's allocated entrance into school, at the time you've been given.
- Please leave your child at the drop off point.
- Remember to social distance.
- Make every effort to arrive at your scheduled time, but in exceptional circumstances, late arrivals must go through the office reception and follow the office's social distancing rules.

## Collection at the end of the day



- Ensure whoever is picking your child up is on time and collects your child from their allocated collection points. They should try to arrive as close to the pick-up time as possible to minimise the numbers of people waiting around.
- Again, there will be an opportunity for a quick message, but anything needing longer conversation must be passed to the office, through the school number 01482 326610 and an appointment will be made.

## Lunchtimes

- Rochelle in our school kitchen will be serving her usual hot meals from **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**.
- Children will eat their meals in the dining hall or main school hall and children will be grouped in their “bubbles”



- Tables and surfaces will be cleaned in between different “bubble” groups.



## What we'll be doing

- Children will be kept within their ‘bubble’ all day with the same staff each day
- Within the government guidance, it recognises that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group.



- The purpose of ‘bubbles’ is to minimise contacts and mixing between people, reducing the transmission of coronavirus. St Charles VC Academy will do everything it can to maintain this whilst still delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. Within bubbles, children and adults must also take measures to distance themselves where at all possible.

- The timetable will be completely rewritten: staggered breaks, lunches, outdoor learning etc, ensuring ‘bubbles’ do not mix at any time.
- Each ‘bubble’ will use the same classroom or area of a setting throughout the day.





- In classrooms, learning resources including desks, will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- Play equipment will be appropriately and regularly cleaned between groups of children using it, and multiple groups will not use it simultaneously.
- Soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts) will be removed from classrooms, along with sofas, cushions and beanbags.

● The sharing of stationery and other equipment will be prevented where possible. Children will be cleaning their hands more often than usual; on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, after sneezing or coughing etc.

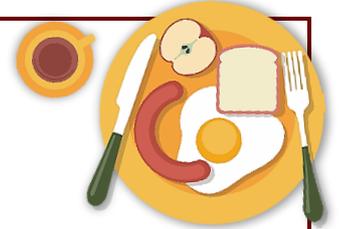
School will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.



- School will encourage children not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- Where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) and propping doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation.
- Staff will help in cleaning frequently touched surfaces, but school will be cleaned by our cleaning team and we will have a cleaner on site throughout the day.



## **Breakfast Club**



- Breakfast Club will be open from **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020**.
- **Places must be booked the week before using an online tool sent via a school text.**
- Breakfast club will start at 8.00am. We cannot accept pupils who turn up without booking. Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to accommodate last minute bookings – no matter how desperate – and apologise for this unusual lack of flexibility.
- Pupils will be in “bubble” groups to minimise risk.



God bless and We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school.

Mrs Siedle

Executive Head

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