



Royal Cross Primary School

Lancashire's school for deaf children

September Return to School

Dear Parents / Carers

Yesterday the Government published the latest guidance for school's reopening in September. The aim is for schools to plan for a full, safe return of all pupils to school in September. We are now making plans to make sure this happens and I would like to share a little information with families on how this will work at Royal Cross.

If you would like to read the full document click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

The Local Authority have also produced a useful summary of this guidance that I will upload to Dojo.

When will Royal Cross reopen to ALL children?

We will be reopening school for all our children, including the Early Years and our new starters from Tuesday September 2nd 2020. We will be operating at our usual times and will be expecting taxis to pick up / drop off as usual.

How will we manage the risk of coronavirus in September?

We appreciate that some families may have concerns when thinking about a return to school, however, we want to reassure all our families that we have taken great care to follow all guidance and that we will assess each day as it comes!

We have ensured as follows: -

- We have an ample supply of all necessary PPE (including masks, visors, aprons and gloves).
- We have plenty of hand sanitiser.
- Good hand washing routines will continue throughout the day and as children move into different rooms.
- All classrooms have cleaning kits and new lidded pedal bins for disposal of tissues etc.

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- All cleaning and infection control protocols will also be in place, ensuring regular and thorough cleaning of surfaces (including door handles, toilets, toys etc.). Some toys that are difficult to clean will be removed from use.
- Class Bubbles. We will continue with our individual class bubbles. From September there will be 5 individual class bubbles. I will be sending home information on your child's 'Bubble' next week.
- We have purchased several clear, Perspex, free standing table 'sneeze guards' to support 1:1 intervention working with staff and pupils.
- Taxi Transport. Wherever possible we are asking families and the transport people to organise separate taxis or to ensure (if possible!) that class groups only share taxis. This is very difficult for transport to accommodate due to the additional costs and vehicles that would be needed. However, we have raised the issue and will wait to see if this can be done.

What will the curriculum look like?

- Our aim is to offer a wide variety of activities throughout the day alongside our 'normal' curriculum focus on Communication, Maths and Literacy.
- Staff will focus on a Wellbeing 'Recovery Curriculum' through PHSE to support all our children in returning to school and routines. This will give children opportunities to chat about any concerns or worries they may have in returning to school. This can then be followed up by 1:1 work by staff if necessary.
- BSL/Deaf Studies will continue to take place within school.
- Language interventions will continue in class and through 1:1 interventions led by our specialist support staff.
- Speech and Language Therapists will be invited back into school.
- PE will be organised for each class separately and for the moment we will not be able to use 'multi-use' equipment. I know that already Mrs. Parveen and Mrs. Dewhurst are busy preparing fun PE games and activities so that our children don't miss out on physical exercise!

What are we asking families to do?

- We ask that families are sensible in their own risk control when out and about to minimise the risk of transmitting the virus within school.

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- All families will be asked to complete a Home / School agreement in respect to Covid safety guidance.
- Unfortunately, for the time being children will be asked not to bring toys or book bags from home. This will be difficult for the new children starting in September but we would ask for your sensitive support in this.

What happens if a child or member of staff becomes ill at school?

- If your child displays any of the symptoms of the coronavirus, parents / carers will be asked to collect them as soon as possible. They will be accompanied to a separate room with a staff member wearing PPE until collection. **Families will need to ensure that they are able to collect children as a return trip home in the taxi may not be possible.** Parents will be asked to follow the government guidelines in terms of isolation/testing.
- If a member of staff displays any of the symptoms of the coronavirus they will immediately leave school and will follow the government guidelines in terms of isolation/testing.
- If a test is returned as positive – children and staff within that class bubble will then follow the government guidelines in terms of isolation/testing and remain off school until safe to return.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for all the support you've given school so far.

We want to ensure all families are happy that all the necessary safety measures have been considered and implemented while also prioritising the education and development of all children.

Please contact me if you would like to ask any questions or to chat about any concerns.

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Thank you for your continued support for school and our staff through this difficult time.

Bev Hennefer
Headteacher
Friday 3rd July 2020

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