



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School September 2021 Opening Plan

With many changes being implemented following July 19th there still remains uncertainty for schools. From August the government plans are to remove bubbles, self-isolation and many of the other protocols currently in place for the return of schools in September. Within their new guidance there remains the caveat that schools need to risk assess and retain the following:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the '**catch it, bin it, kill it**' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products, such as detergents and bleach

Lancashire public health are also advising schools to err on the side of caution whilst infection transmission rates remain high.

Throughout these last 18 months we have learned that things can change very quickly and following the summer holidays, depending on the infection rates, we have to be prepared for any eventualities. As we know guidance in July can be replaced with little notice in late August.

We felt it was extremely important to provide you with an overview of our intended organisation for September so that you had ample time to organise your work commitments and family life.

After consulting all groups in our school community and discussing the most effective action to take we have now agreed school organisation which we feel captures the most positive changes currently in place whilst providing a high level of flexibility. We are still unsure of many things moving forward and until the government provide clarity in terms of how schools should deal with positive cases, we are unable to update our current guidance. However, once there is clarity this will be updated, if necessary, and placed on our school website.

As we have done over these last 18 months we will follow guidance and we will communicate any changes in a timely manner. We will continue to risk assess our own community and ensure we continue with measures which will provide the safest possible environment for all.

We know that you will work alongside us and we thank all parents for your patience, understanding and cooperation during these challenging times.

Our Lady's Provision

School will reopen from **Thursday 2nd September** for children from **Year One to Year Six**. All class teachers will lead their own class, working alongside them will be one or two Teaching Assistants. Each class will be joined with another class and together, these two classes will have their own individual school timetable, including breaks and lunchtime. This will enable school to keep classes separate, if this is required, or to enable greater mixing if possible. By linking classes together, the older children will have opportunity to develop their leadership qualities, through supporting the younger children in the playground, through clubs and during other planned activities.

The systems for the beginning and close of the school day which are currently in place will remain but will provide greater opportunity for parents to speak with teachers at the end of the day if required. Children will arrive and leave school in their houses: Bamber, Harcourt, Marsden and Plessington. The small number of families who have children in duplicate houses will be asked to bring all their children at the same time as their oldest child's house unless both houses have the same allocated times. Please see the table below for timings.

Kenilworth Rd	Mon-Fri	St Patricks Rd	End of the day	Mon-Fri
Marsden	8:40am	Harcourt	1 way system to operate	3:10pm
Bamber	8:50am	Plessington	Enter Kenilworth Rd at set time and exit St Patrick's Road	3:20pm

Our new Reception parents are invited to meet with Miss Lavelle and the team on **Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September**. All parents have been sent a date and time for these meetings. Please arrive at the school Reception by walking through the carpark and reaching the small gate at the opposite side of this area. Mrs Hodges or Mrs Shields will greet you and Miss Lavelle will take you to the Reception Classroom.

Our new Reception class will be returning on **Monday 6th September** but in two groups. Group One will attend school during the morning, whilst Group Two will attend in the afternoon. This will enable the Reception team to settle the children into their new routines as they begin their school journey. Below is the timetable for the first week.

RECEPTION CLASS			Timings for the first week of induction into the school.	St Patrick's Road Entrance
GROUP 1	9:00am	11:50am		
GROUP 2	12:40pm	3:30pm		

Parents should arrive at the St Patrick's Road Entrance Gate at their designated time and will be met by a teacher. At the end of each session teachers will bring children to the same gate to be collected.

During this first week lunch will not be provided and it will be important that children arrive and are collected from school promptly at their allocated times.

During the week beginning **13th September** like other year groups, Reception will be taught as a whole class. At this point they will follow the same pattern as all other school children and arrive and exit school in their houses. Miss Lavelle will ensure parents know which House their child has joined.

Drop off and Pick Up:

These will continue in the same format as is now established. **It remains essential that, no one experiencing Coronavirus symptoms should come onto the site or be sending their child into school.**

It is essential that you arrive and collect your child on time.

Extended Day:

Before and After School Provision will continue to be available and provided by St Thomas' Parish club. All places must be booked in advance. This club will also be waiting to implement the new guidance and therefore will send out their own specific guidance ready for September.

Curriculum:

We have spent a long time creating our engaging curriculum which enables children to think deeply and awaken their curiosity. In the Learn Section of our website all subject areas can be explored and key learning is mapped out sequentially to provide an overview of how learning is layered as children progress through the school. At the centre of all our learning is Christ and through our 16 virtues we challenge children to 'become the best versions of themselves'. These can be found by pressing the welcome button in our Discover Area.

We also encourage our children to develop key learning qualities through our eight learning characters. As your child travels through school they will talk about these characters. They can be found in the Learn Section of our website by pressing the Learning Community button.

As a Catholic school, our Religious Education is taught as a core subject and The Word of God shared in classes by daily class prayer and liturgy sessions. Over the last 18 months we have missed gathering together as a whole community in assemblies and going to celebrate mass in church. We are hoping to slowly introduce these important aspects of school life but again will closely follow guidance.

School Uniform:

We ask that all children wear their school uniform or their school tracksuit on PE days, including appropriate footwear. Please look carefully at the uniform leaflet on the Discover page of the website.

SEND Children:

Our children have a range of needs and we will need to plan accordingly to ensure the well-being of all our SEND children. Please contact Miss Brisco, our SENCo should you wish to discuss anything further.

l.brisco@ourladystarofthesea.lancs.sch.uk

Lunchtimes & Playtimes:

These will be staggered so a smaller number of pupils are on the playground. We have found that having two, rather than four classes on the playground has provided the children with more space and has enabled adults to provide more structured support for children to resolve their own conflicts.

All KS1 children will be provided with a lunch and KS2 children are encouraged to purchase a school meal (£2:35) as often as possible. The two tables below provide an overview of daily organisation of classes:

BREAK TIMES	BREAK 1 (am)	BREAK 2
Year 3 & 5	10:20 - 10:35	1:55 - 2:10
Year 1 & 4	10:05 - 10:20	11:20 - 11:35
Year 6 & 2	10:35 - 10:50	11:35 - 11:50

LUNCHTIME TIMES			
	Playground	Hall	Back in Class
Year 3 & 5	11:50	12:10	12:35
	Playground	Hall	Back in Class
Year 1 & 4	12:20	12:40	1:05
	Hall	Playground	Back in Class
Year 6, 2 and Reception	1:10	1:35	1:55

Reception and KS1 children are provided with a piece of fruit during the morning and KS2 children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack (please see guidance in the Discover Area).

Attendance:

School attendance is mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from this point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including;

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

Arrival and collection times:

- Please ensure that you arrive on time in the morning at your specified arrival time.
- Please ensure that you arrive on time for collecting your child. If any arrangements change, please make sure the school office and class teachers have been contacted before 2pm.

If parents of pupils with significant risk are concerned, then please contact the Head teacher, Miss Hornby to discuss your concerns.

Visitors to school:

Currently only essential visitors to school will be allowed on site. An example of an essential visitor would be a contractor completing the monthly water tests which are statutory and, in not doing them, would potentially affect the health of the school community. Parents will only be able to come into the Reception area of the site to collect any child who is unwell or to attend a scheduled meeting. Only 1 parent in this area is allowed when visiting the office. If awaiting, please wait outside the building. Any concerns that need to be discussed with a staff member need to be done via telephone or email as this will help to ensure the safety of both staff and parents. Again, as new guidance is received this may be updated.

School policies:

All key school policies such as Behaviour and Safeguarding are available on the school website.

Review:

The Governing Body, in consultation with the Head teacher, will keep this plan under constant review considering changes in government guidance, views of our community, good practice in other settings and learning from what is a new situation for us all. Any changes will be communicated with parents.

Miss Hornby (Headteacher) Mrs Hills (Chair of Governors) 30th July 2021