

Letter from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Monday 3rd August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

JUNIOR SCHOOL: Reopening August 2020

I am delighted to be able to confirm that following the First Minister's announcement on Thursday, St Aloysius' College will be open fully to all pupils in Kindergarten, Junior and Senior Schools from the start of the Autumn Term 2020. We are hugely looking forward to welcoming your children back.

The Junior School (KG-P7) will reopen fully for all pupils on **Thursday 13th August 2020.**

The Scottish Government is very clear however that with the return to school in August, we must all remain vigilant and continue to manage the risks of COVID-19. The health and safety of all our community is of primary importance. Therefore, it is very important that you read all aspects of the detailed guidance and information that follows. I am very aware that this is a very lengthy letter but it is very important and will ensure a successful and sustained reopening. **Please also share this with your child/ren and keep it for reference.**

The buildings have been reordered, deep cleaned, all statutory testing and servicing of services and facilities has taken place and everything de-cluttered to ensure the safest possible environment for all our community to return.

In line with the very latest guidance, we have ensured that we have in place pragmatic and proportionate control measures which reduce risk to the lowest reasonably practical level. These are being reviewed on a continuous basis and therefore please do keep updated by reading all emails sent out. All our letters to parents can also be found on the covid19 section of our website. There is a separate letter for the parents of Senior School pupils and Mrs Brown has written separately to Kindergarten parents.

There are a few areas (not least Sport) where we are still awaiting further guidance which will be shared with you as soon as we have clarity.

There must be logistical changes at lunchtimes, break times, lesson transitions and during daily collection and pickup. Much that was shared with you in June remains unchanged for Junior School but not everything so please read the whole document in its detail.

We will be keeping young people safe by working/playing in 'bubbles' which means your child will spend time with their year group but will as far as possible not have contact with other year groups. Specialist staff will go to the classroom to avoid lots of movement around site and the numbers using toilet facilities at any one time will be monitored.

Signs of covid19 and not attending school

If your child is feeling unwell they must not attend school. Please do not bring them to school and risk spreading any infection. If they have a temperature in excess of 37.8 degrees they absolutely must not attend school.

It is crucial to follow NHS Scotland advice that anyone with the following symptoms are advised to self-isolate for at least 10 days and seek COVID-19 testing (details of how to access testing are available on NHS Inform):

- New continuous cough or
- Fever or
- Loss of/ change in sense of smell or taste

For most people and particularly the symptoms of COVID-19 will be mild. COVID-19 is more likely to cause severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

As part of the 'Test and Protect' approach, everyone with symptoms is encouraged to get tested. You can book a test through NHS Inform. Household members of those with symptoms should follow the guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection on NHS Inform.

If you child feels ill during the school day

We will have two nurses on duty working out of the Sports Hall medical base. There will be an isolation area for anyone showing the symptoms of covid19. Our First Aiders will deal with minor injuries to ensure heightened provision is available for prevention and control. We will at all times be guided by the advice of Public Health Scotland if there is a confirmed case of covid19. If your child displays symptoms we will contact you and ask that they are picked up immediately and tested. The nurses will advise on the actions to be taken and test and trace will be informed as a matter of course. We have very clear protocols covering our health provision and we are assisted by a Governor who is a GP.

Young people who are clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding)

Shielding was paused from 1st August. We expect that pupils who are shielding will be able to return to school in August, unless given advice from a GP or healthcare provider not to, and can follow the same guidance as the rest of Scotland.

A safe environment

The government has concluded on the basis of the scientific advice available that no distancing should be required between children in primary schools. However, this is dependent upon all risk mitigation factors being in place and that we should avoid large gatherings and crowded spaces and, wherever possible, aim to keep children and young people within the same groups for the duration of the school day. We are able to meet this guidance in full and exceed it. The government is clear that distancing should be implemented in a proportionate way and that schools should ensure that the specific approaches adopted do not introduce capacity constraints and/or prevent a return to full-time learning in school.

However, it is essential that we protect teachers and other adults in school as well as ensuring pupils' education. Therefore, we have implemented the following:

- Teachers will have a clearly marked out workspace which should not be breached. This allows for 2m distancing at all times and will make teaching somewhat less personal but keep everyone safe
- Teachers do not have to wear a mask or visor but may choose to do so for their own wellbeing or health. They are likely to wear a mask/visor if in closer contact for specific reasons
- There are no mixed year group activities taking place
- Currently there will be no gatherings of over 50 young people and we will work within year groups if such gatherings are needed
- We have adjusted drop off and pick up having identified these as times of potential risk
- There is a strict one-way system in place to avoid cross over in corridors
- Breaks and lunchtimes have been reordered to prevent all pupils being released from class together
- We have spaced out our classrooms as far as possible with 2m distance between the teacher and pupils and aiming for as much space as possible between pupils. Pupils will always be sitting side by side and facing forwards as opposed to opposite each other

- P7 have their own bubble and will be accommodated within the Sports Hall building until October Half Term at the earliest
- Extra classes for P5 and 6 have been created until at least October Half Term to ensure ample space for all pupils and staff

Very significant time has been spent risk assessing all aspects of our environment and operating procedures. We have put in place as many mitigating precautions as possible.

- Our cleaning team are working continuously from 7am-7pm with larger numbers of cleaning staff on duty at key points in the day. They are clearly identifiable through their new purple jackets with the 'Cleaning Team' lettering on the back. They will wear PPE for all appropriate tasks
- New cleaning regimes focus on regular cleaning of all touch points as well as enhanced cleaning of all classrooms and washrooms
- There are sanitiser points at all main entrances to the school. It is essential that these are used
- All pupils and staff will be issued with a small bottle of sanitiser for their own personal use during the day. They will be able to request a further bottle when this is exhausted.
- Sanitiser is available in all classrooms as are sanitising wipes and tissues. Pupils are expected to clean down their desk and chair after use. Tissue waste must be safely disposed of

For Early Years there is very specific guidance which says

It is not appropriate for young children to maintain physical distancing, either practically or in terms of child development. Scientific advice shows that given the continued suppression of the virus; the mitigations; and the emerging evidence on transmission in young children, physical distancing is not recommended between children. In addition, it is not desirable or possible to implement physical distancing between young children or between a young child and their key worker.

Therefore, you can expect to see differences between the distancing in Early Years, Junior and Senior Schools. If you have more than one child in different parts of the school they will have a slightly different experience but the commitment and preparations to keep everyone safe are as one.

The process for drop off and pick up is outlined below and is the same as given on 25th June. This is the most vulnerable time and I urge your support to these processes to keep everyone safe.

Drop off

No children should be on site before 8.30pm unless registered for our Breakfast Club. Junior School access is for children only and through the rear door from the lane. Drop off should be as swift as possible and there will be no parking or access to the playground areas with the exception of kindergarten parents who may use the top car park.

The following will apply:

- All children arriving between 8.30-9am.
- All children to be met in lane by JSLT and CA's
- All children to make way directly to class following the one-way system.
- Staff positioned at bottom of stairs and at 1st floor to assist pupils

- 1 teacher per stage on duty between 8.30-9am each morning to supervise.
- Kindergarten only in top car park.
- Kindergarten only to use Mercy Passage.
- Social distancing markers at entrance to Kindergarten.
- Parents and children admitted to Kindergarten one family at a time. Can we request only one parent please dropping off.
- P7 to be dropped at Sports Building and wait in green tarmac outside area with staff member.

Pick up

This poses the biggest risk of transmitting infection for primary schools and it is crucial that we can get this right and keep everyone safe.

The car park area will open at 2.30pm prompt and gates will then be closed at 2.45pm

There will be staggered pick up times and pupils will be dismissed from different doors

Class	Dismissed from	Time
P.7	Sports building	3.30pm
P.6	ICT	3.15pm
P.5	Back door	3.15pm
P.4	ICT	3pm
P.3	Back door	3pm
P.2	ICT	2.45pm
P.1	Back door	2.45pm
Kindergarten	Mercy passage	From 3pm – 4. 30pm Social distance markers used. Staff to regulate number of parents in building.

- Lane marked with hearts to enable 2m distancing.
- 2 lines for each dismissal point.
- Class collection zone marked off at exit to allow teacher space to match children to adults safely.
- All children must remain with adults once collected.
- If waiting for older siblings must wait in car or beside adults and hold hand.
- Playgrounds not to be accessed by children after dismissal.

The key change is that it will not be possible for parents to wait in a group at the back of the Junior School as currently. Please try to limit the number of adults and children as much as possible, if possible one adult only. Please return directly to your car once your child has been dismissed to you.

Lunches

These are different from currently and you may want to share with your child just before they return to school. All children should bring a packed lunch and their own water bottle. Both should be clearly marked with the child's name

Class	Area for lunch	Time
P.7	In class	12.10 – 1pm
P.6	In class	12.10 – 1pm
P.5	In class	12.10 – 1pm
P.4	In class	12.10 – 1pm
P.3	Art room Science	11.40-12.10pm
P.2	Atrium	12.15-12.45pm
P.1	Atrium	11.40-12.10pm
Kindergarten	Upper floor in Kindergarten Children in groups in rotation	11.45-12.05pm
		12.10-12.30pm
		12.35-12.55pm
		12.55-1.15pm

Breaks will also be different and again young people will be kept in their year group bubbles

Breakfast Club

This will run in the Atrium for pre-booked Junior School pupils and parents will drop their child off at the Junior School Reception entrance. We are not able to provide the usual breakfast service but children will be provided with a cereal bar and a fresh fruit juice. Parents cannot come into the school but should say goodbye to their child at the front door.

After School

The only co-curricular club (for P4-P7) which we will run in the first instance will be Homework Club. This will run **3.30-4.30pm** Monday through Friday from Monday 17th August. Children will remain with their year group 'bubble' and staff from that year group will supervise, helped by specialist staff. KG-P3 will remain in their bubbles for after school club from 2.45-4.30pm or until picked up.

After Care

In line with government guidance After Care Provision will be offered in the Atrium only for the children of category one key workers in the first instance from 4.30pm-6.00pm. The Kindergarten pupils will remain in their own building.

Specialist classes

Specialist subjects will continue with staff going to classes apart from KG where Care Inspectorate guidelines do not permit this. KG Classes will be delivered where possible online in the kindergarten or by other means.

Homework

We intend to use Schoology for Homework initially to avoid sending work home for hygiene reasons.

Welcome Sessions

Meetings with new class teachers and introduction to the new year's work will take place by zoom. They will follow exactly the same format as previously with a presentation, a chance to meet the teacher and q and a sessions. Details of this will follow in advance of the session.

PE and Games

This will all happen on campus and P1-3 has a designated PE slot timetabled. P4-7 have a longer slot that encompasses PE and Games. Pupils should attend school dressed for PE as there are no changing facilities.

Saturday Sport

We are looking to provide sporting provision for Junior School on alternate Saturdays. We await guidance from the government and from sporting bodies as to what this can look like. I will be writing separately to you about this once the school level sporting bodies have reached agreement as to how they will be proceeding. We have not yet received updates about the operation of Glasgow Green. Likewise, there will be restrictions on parents accessing Millerston. There will be no indoor space available for parents or café facilities.

Uniform

Over the last few months our pupils' normal routines have been disrupted. Wearing school uniform is an important part of school routine. It serves to ensure a level of uniformity and a sense of belonging. Pupils wearing their uniform well in August will only help build that feeling of community. We want to maintain our high standards of uniform and appearance as we believe it has a positive impact on behaviour and learning. All uniform and appearance expectations can be found on the College website. However, until further notice blazers and ties are optional to wear. There is no national guidance that says blazers and ties cannot be worn and it is likely that the majority of our pupils will choose to retain their normal uniform.

We do not know as yet when we will be able to begin the hockey and rugby season. Therefore, to avoid buying items that may not fit at a later date, we are advising parents and carers not to buy games kit at this time. When we know a start date, we will notify you as soon as possible and provide a kit list for rugby and hockey. We ask for your support, as always, in ensuring that your child adheres to the uniform rules.

Louise has emailed out details of uniform and changes which are permissible in the current situation. There are no further changes to this. Our guidance is based on the importance of having fresh clothes each day to minimise transmission of infection.

Face Covering

Face coverings are not required for most children and young people (those clinically advised to wear a covering are an exception). However, pupils over 5 years of age must wear face coverings if travelling on public transport. They should provide their own face covering which should be carefully stored to avoid transmission of any infection (a small plastic bag would be best).

Any pupil wishing to wear a face covering in school can do so. Evidence suggests that face coverings do not provide significant protection for the wearer, rather they primarily reduce the risk of transmission and help suppress the virus. As the wearing of face coverings/masks becomes more commonplace in Scotland, it is possible that more people may choose to wear a face covering in the school setting, particularly on the initial return to school.

One way system

There is now a marked one way system around the campus to ensure social distancing and to avoid a build up of pupils in any communal area. This will be explained to all pupils on their first day. Entry and exit points are given above. The up stair will be the staircase nearest to kindergarten and the down stair the one nearest to the lift.

For the Sports Hall (being used by P7):

In via pupil entrance off the pound for users of ground floor corridor (Ms Lamarra and Mr McKinney's classes) and medical room

In via rear entrance for Viewing Gallery (Miss Hegarty's class) and users of the main Sports Hall

Out via main stairs and front door for all users

Events and Visitors

To reduce the risk of infection, the school is not open for visitors. Please note that this also includes parents at the current time. Please use phone or email and all enquiries will be dealt with timeously.

We have not cancelled events, but will respond to the latest safety guidelines as to what events can take place at any given time. Miss Hegarty will be in touch about the postponed First Holy Communions. We have a date of Sunday 4th October in St Aloysius' Church at 2pm. However please be aware that the current maximum number of people allowed in the church is 50 which will significantly change the nature of the event.

Kindergarten Welcome: Wednesday 12th August

There will be a staggered start for our new pupils joining the kindergarten and details of this will be sent out before the start of term. The date has changed here.

Visitors, Events and Travel

Schola and Music Lessons

Current guidelines mean that the Schola will not be operating until further notice. Likewise in order to protect staff from excessive movement about campus, to facilitate social distancing and of course to allow pupils to focus on their core learning which has been disrupted for some time, music lessons will not be taking place initially.

Please note that current national guidance does not allow for provision of wind instrument or choral lessons.

You may wish to arrange virtual lessons outwith school time ensuring at all times that young people are kept safe.

Fitness Suite

In line with national guidelines, there will be no access to the school's fitness suite until further notice.

School Transport

School transport will operate normally from the Southside (Doigs Buses).

Dedicated school transport is regarded as an extension of the school estate and it is not necessary to maintain distance between children and young people of all ages.

We have liaised with Doigs can reassure parents that they have implemented strict protocols in line with government guidance. They will run larger buses to ensure some distancing is possible.

No pupil must board dedicated school or public transport if they, or a member of their household, have symptoms of COVID-19.

Pupils must wear a face covering for all school transport and safely store it away when off the bus.

Everyone using the school transport should sanitise their hands prior to boarding.

Keeping everyone safe

I have been asked what oversight will be provided by Government to keep young people safe. This is known as the 'Enhanced surveillance programme' There will also be specific surveillance in respect of schools and children/young people. This will draw on COVID-19 related information from a range of sources and will cover all school ages and the ELC phase. The government is also developing an additional surveillance programme within a sample of schools (we are not included within this). This would involve working over a period of time with substantial numbers of children and workers at a representative sample of schools throughout Scotland, using repeated PCR/serology testing and survey data to establish symptoms and infections in the school population to inform the ongoing development of guidance.

The College is a member of SCIS, HMC and ISBA and I am member of SLS. This ensures we are constantly updated as to best practice and we follow all guidance or where possible exceed such guidance for the good of our community.

We have very clear guidelines to follow were there to be an incidence of covid19 in our community and our actions would be dictated by the Health Protection Team.

Return to School and Pupil Wellbeing

We appreciate that the past few months have been a very challenging time. Many of our pupils will be excited by the prospect of returning to school. However, there may be others who, initially, will be a little anxious about coming back in August. This is completely understandable as our young people will have had varied experiences and responses to lockdown. For some, it may have been mostly an enjoyable experience spending more time with their families. However, we know for others it may have been challenging or indeed traumatic. Your child's wellbeing and mental health will continue to be our priority when we return to school in August. The pastoral team are experienced in supporting young people through difficult times. We will provide any pastoral support needed and signpost you to other services if required. These unprecedented changes that the lockdown has imposed are likely to have left many of our pupils feeling uncertain about the future. On return to school we will provide opportunities for pupils to speak to peers and staff about any concerns they have. Please get in touch with your child's class teacher and either Miss Sharp ESharp@staloyisus.org or Mrs Brown KBrown@staloyisus.org if you or your child have any concerns about the transition back to school. We will work with you to create, if needed, a support plan for your child's return. If your child has any medical needs or is seen to be vulnerable for any reason then we would want to create a personalised support plan/risk assessment to assure that they are fully supported in every way.

And finally

Thank you for taking the time to read and note the large amount of detail here. All this is designed to keep everyone safe and so that we can return to school and remain safely without needing to interrupt education. Updates will be issued to reflect changing advice and any developing situations.

I do hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well

Kindest regards



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GREAT THINGS HAPPEN IN THE GREEN BLAZER