



27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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**Principal:** Siobhan Kent

Dear Parents and Carers,

Best wishes from St Bernard's and I hope that my letter finds you all safe, well and looking forward to a new school year!

As you know, I wrote to you in July to explain the process for our return, the measures that we have taken to make our school as safe as possible and start dates for each year group. Throughout the summer, we have closely monitored the updates from the government and listened to the advice given to schools for their return. I am happy to say that we have been able to keep all of our planned arrangements for our return next week in place. I would urge all parents to refresh themselves with this letter on the following link <https://www.sbch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Reopening-Guidance-for-Parents-1> as it contains all of the practical information that you need to support your child in their return.

You will have seen through the media, that the use of face masks in schools has caused great discussion. I can confirm that, in line with guidance, we *will not* be using face masks in school unless we become a vulnerable area. Should that happen, I will write to you again to inform you of any changes.

As a reminder to you, we have staggered the return of year groups so that we can reorientate them calmly back into school life as a year group 'bubble' and focus on their mental health support as well as their academic needs. The return dates are as follows:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
Year 7 (8:40am start) and Year 11 (9:30am start)	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11 (8:40am Start)	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020
Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 (8:40am Start)	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2020



Please also remember that the students have new temporary entrance and exit points as follows:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Entry/Exit Points</b>
Year 7	Main reception
Year 8	Top Gate (next to Science)
Year 9	Top Gate (next to Science)
Year 10	Bottom Gate (Woodall Road)
Year 11	Bottom Gate (Woodall Road)

Our ambition for our community is that we begin our new school year with positivity, hope and peace. No doubt there are still uncertain times ahead that we will need to navigate with common sense and calm for the sake of our children. I know that, as always, you will offer us your patience and support to ensure that we work together for the good of our children.

I will keep my communication with you as frequent as possible so that you are updated as to how our plans are going in school. Please, as always, contact me should you need anything at all.

Finally, enjoy the bank holiday and the last few days of solace before the alarm clocks and routine begin again!

Stay safe,

Siobhan Kent  
Principal