

St Gregory's Road-Map for Academic Year 2021-22

Active from September 2021



This refreshed road map has two purposes:

- a) Information about a full return to school and the part that you should play in this.
- b) Information about the operational decisions that are part of a continuity plan from September 2021 if there is a further COVID-19 outbreak.

Measures that will continue at school to minimise risk of spreading germs:

There are some measures in place at school which will continue into the new academic year to help stop the spread of any germs that we may come into contact with. These measures follow advice from Public Health England (PHE) and include:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone ('catch it, bin it, kill it' approach & additional hand cleansing).
- Maintaining increased cleaning regimes especially high touch/use areas.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Considerations and rationale:

We have put in place an Outbreak Management Plan which states that even though we are hoping to return to as much of a feeling of normality as we can, we need to also be ready to step up or down measures put in place if we have a school, local or national outbreak. This plan can be found here: <https://www.st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk/covid-19/>. We will put measures in place upon advice from PHE and, in agreement with the governors, will be measured in our approach so that our children are impacted as little as possible by any plan that is put into place.

We recognise that our children have been used to working within a bubble and having strict areas to work and play in over the past 17 months. While as adults, we would love to get back to absolute normality as soon as possible, the bubble approach has become normal for our children. With this in mind, we need to release restrictions in a staged manner so as not to overwhelm the children all at once with, what is to them, new ways of working. For this reason, our return to normality will be done slowly and in keeping with what the children and school community are ready for at specific points over the coming weeks and months.

The Bubble Approach

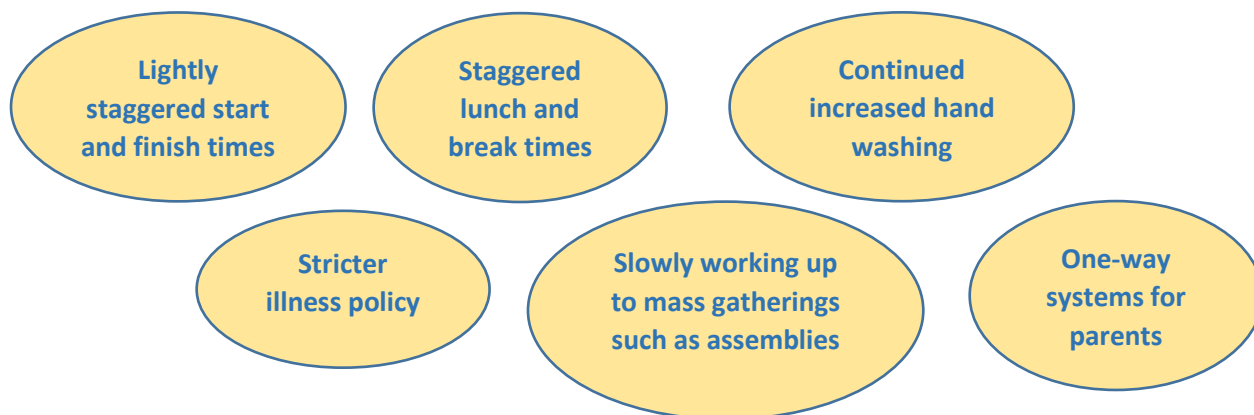
Our bubble approach has been used to decrease the number of people any one person comes into contact with regularly. From September, we will not be working in bubbles but have organised the school day so that it's easy for us to step back up to a phase-wide bubbled approach if that is deemed necessary at any point.

This means that we will be able to buddy up with other classes for paired reading, shared play and lunchtimes and will also be introducing more face to face assemblies back into the timetable. After a while, when we know things are safer and children have got used to being together again, this will progress to whole school assemblies indoors once again.

Other Safety Measures

There are some other safety measures, that were introduced to minimise the spread of germs, that will remain for the time being. These will be stepped down as the Autumn term progresses and the spread of infection decreases. It also means that we're not changing everything at the same time for the children which could prove to be quite unsettling.

As well as the PHE measures, measures specific to our school that will remain in place include:



Does my child have to attend school?

All children must attend school and our usual attendance policy now goes back into place – this can be found on the school website. This states that children should be in school every day on time.

You should therefore continue to follow our normal attendance procedures and inform us on a daily basis if your child is unwell and therefore unable to attend school. Please do this by calling the school absence line on 01242 513659 or emailing absence@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk. If your child has tested positive with COVID-19, they should not attend school, even if they are asymptomatic.

Please be aware, if you are going abroad on holiday over the Summer holidays or sometime in the next academic year, that there are many countries that, upon return from, you will need to quarantine yourself and your family for an agreed number of days as well as paying for regulated PCR tests upon return. This list of green, amber and red list countries changes regularly and it is your responsibility to adhere to the quarantining arrangements for each country. As you are aware of that at this early point, you will need to build this time into the 'holiday time' from school and therefore use this in planning so that your child does not miss school for a holiday or the associated quarantine time from that holiday. This is NOT a surprise so please do not treat it as such upon your return. The school will always follow government advice on these quarantine times and expect you to do the same for the safety of everyone.

What happens if my child shows symptoms of illness at school?

As usual, they will be taken to the medical room and you will be called to collect them. We respectfully ask that you collect them as soon as you receive a call from us to keep all members of the school community safe and well. Staff may need to use Personal Protective Equipment when helping your child in this instance and it is very likely that they would simply want a cuddle from someone they love at home if they're feeling under the weather.

If anyone at school (child or adult) shows symptoms of COVID-19, they will be asked to leave the site and take a test. The whole household should follow PHE stay at home guidance until a negative test result is returned.

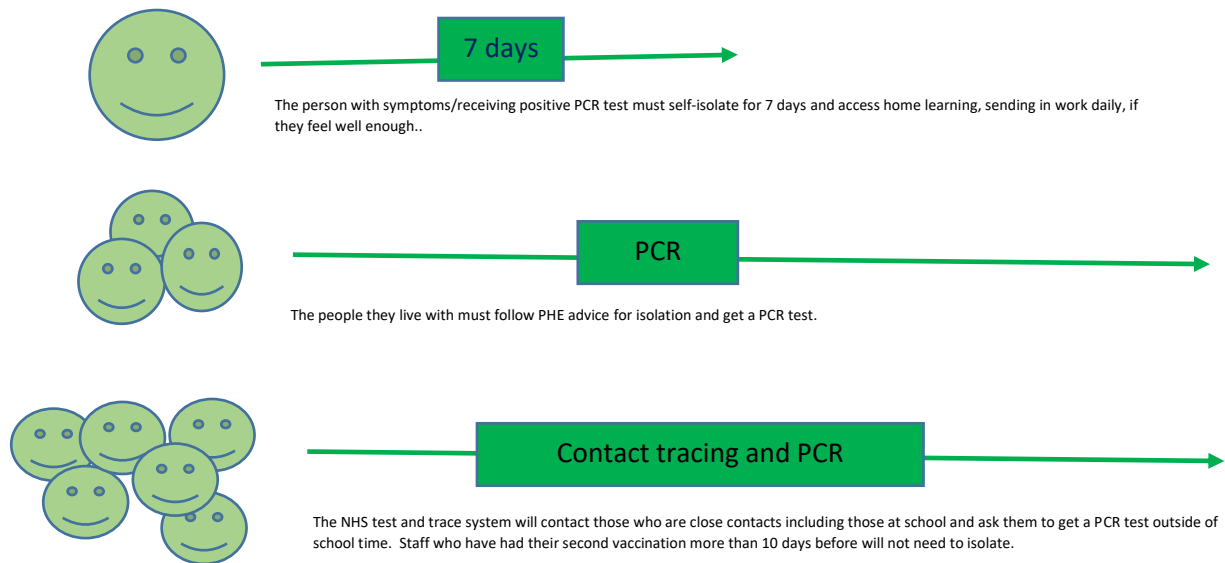
If a positive test result is returned, NHS test and trace will contact you and contact tracing of close contacts will commence – these close contacts will be asked to attend a test centre for a PCR test to identify who needs to isolate. We are hopeful that this will prevent whole year groups needing to isolate because of individual positive cases although we are awaiting guidance on what this looks like in practice – more information in September about this. Contact tracing will no longer be carried out by our school.

If children are required to isolate either because they have COVID-19 or are awaiting test results following a track and trace, they will be expected to follow our remote learning policy which can be found on the COVID-19 web page.

Our staff will continue to carry out twice weekly asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 until at least the end of September. If a staff member tests positive on a routine lateral flow test, we will need to isolate them and await the results of a PCR test.

Our Y6 children will be asked by their new secondary school to carry out two LFD tests in their first week at their new school.

If there is a positive case of Coronavirus at school:



If your child has a normal school time accident where they gain a bump or a bruise, they will be treated for this in the usual way. To prevent unnecessary face to face conversations, where this is a minor injury, a bump sticker will replace a conversation. If the injury is more serious or involves a head bump, a phone call or text will be made home to inform you.

Morning drop off and afternoon pick up:

We would like to encourage you to walk, cycle or scoot to school. So that you have somewhere to store your bike/scooter, we have allocated additional parking spaces for them in the trim trail. If you do need to come to school by car, remember to park at Waitrose. Parking in roads near to the school will not help you to get to school quicker because of the one-way system we have had to put in place. It is also breaking the agreement you make when you apply for a place at our school for your child.

We will continue to have staggered start and finish times to ease pressure on the number of people accessing school at any one time. The one-way system continues to be in place for drop offs and pick ups to help all parents to have the space needed for your children to make their way in and out of school with space. To prevent a traffic jam of parents, each year group will have their own drop off and pick up times.

If you have more than one child at St Gregory's, please drop your children off at the time of the earliest drop off for your children who are attending school at that time. We ask that all parents are prompt with their entry and exit to school so that your child does not waste any learning time – lessons begin as soon as they enter the classroom. Face masks are no longer statutory although parents are welcome to wear them if it helps them to feel safer.

To bring your child to school, please approach the school in the usual way at your given time. A senior leader will welcome them on the gate and their teaching partner will meet them in the playground for the first couple of weeks of term to help them wash their hands and to take them to class with their belongings. Their teacher will be waiting in class for them. If you have messages for the key adults who work with your child, may I ask you to ring the school office on 01242 513659 option 2 or speak to a member of staff on the gate. A senior leader, a member of the pastoral team and office staff will continue to be available at the start and end of each day to take messages and help you with any queries you may have.

To exit the school site, you will be directed across the all-weather pitch and will leave the school site at the gate near to Waitrose.

Year group	Time	Drop off point	Entry Door
EYFS	8.45	Reception gate	Reception classroom doors
Year 1	8.50	Playground gate	Infant corridor doors
Year 2	8.50	Playground gate	Infant corridor doors
Year 3	8.45	Playground gate	Y3 classroom doors
Year 4	8.45	Playground gate	Y4 classroom doors
Year 5	8.40	Playground gate	Doors by Playpod
Year 6	8.40	Playground gate	Doors by DT room

In the afternoon, this one-way system will be reversed. When you collect your child, you will enter the school site from the gate at the end of the all-weather pitch and exit the school site past the reception entrance and out of the cul-de-sac. If you have children in more than one yeargroup, you should enter the school site to collect your children at 3.10pm to prevent you waiting around in the playground.

Please have regard for those living and working near the school who need to get in and out of their homes and places of work.

The astro gate will be closed at 3.10pm.

Year Group	Time	Area
EYFS	3.05	Reception classroom doors
Year 1	3.10	Playground – by infant corridor doors
Year 2	3.10	Playground – by infant corridor doors
Year 3	3.05	Playground – Y3 classroom doors
Year 4	3.05	Playground – Y4 classroom doors
Year 5	3.00	Playground – doors near playpod
Year 6	3.00	Playground – doors near to DT room
Families with children in multiple year groups	3.10	From their different collection spaces as above.

What should we wear to school?

In September, full uniform will be expected as per our school Uniform and Appearance Policy which can be found here: <https://primariesite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/the-catholic-school-of-st-gregory-the-great/UploadedDocument/a5a4c4ae5cec4dd285ea5297a252b8e3/uniform-appearance-policy-r0121.pdf> . This includes plain hair styles and black school shoes, not trainers. There is no longer any need for children to bring in an extra layer.

We pride ourselves on preparing children to be actively engaged citizens of the present and future and an important part of this is following rules and 'dressing for the occasion'. There are times for chilling out and there are times for being smart.....coming to school is a time when children should be ready to learn and take pride in all they do to help them to be the very best they can be. We notice a big difference in the

learning behaviours of our children when they come to school dressed smartly in their uniform and this is the reason why we have a strict uniform policy. We respectfully ask you to support us with this.

There is no requirement for children to wear face coverings on the school site although there may be a requirement (awaiting for legislation) for our 11 year old children to wear face coverings when on public transport or in other public crowded spaces away from school or en-route to school.

What about extra-curricular opportunities?

We know how important (and enjoyable) extra-curricular activities are for our children and for that reason, we're keen to offer these as soon as we can. As we move through Term 1, and we monitor the return to school, we will inform you about extra-curricular opportunities for children in all yeargroups.

St Gregory's Childcare Trust will be operating their usual hours from 8am – 6pm to help with childcare for any families who need this. Please make sure you book your place in there as soon as possible. If you no longer need your space, you should let Denise Arnold, Claire Plant or Lisa King know and your space can then be offered to someone else on the waiting list. The Kidsclub have a few spaces left for Summer Holiday Club childcare – this should be booked as soon as possible as places are limited.

Peripatetic music teachers are able to work on the school site. We are proud to be able to offer piano, guitar, violin, recorder and singing lessons within the school day and ask that you contact the school office if you would like details about how to access these lessons. If you have a household income below £27,000 there are grants that we can help you to access from Gloucestershire Music to help with the cost of these lessons. Ask about this through the office by calling 01242 513659 option 2.

Walking bus will not take place for the first part of the year and will be reviewed at Christmas time.

Educational visits including residential visits to Kingswood and PGL will take place. Swimming will also restart.

We are currently seeking clarification about attending school mass at church again.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents back into school for face to face events in time as we get used to more 'normal' ways of working again – we have really missed you!

What will happen for lunch?

Caterlink, our caterers, will be providing hot lunches to all children in FS, Y1, Y2 and those throughout the school who are entitled to free school meals. Meals can also be ordered by any other child at the cost of the parents who can pay as usual, through ParentPay. The full menu, including salad bar is now on offer.

Lunchtime in the hall is a really important time for learning how to use a knife and fork, trying new foods, showing fantastic table manners and learning how to hold conversations with friends. We have worked hard on these routines over the past 17 months and are determined to continue with them. Children will therefore be allocated specific tables to sit at and be asked to remain at those tables for a specific amount of time to give them chance to eat all of their dinner and to have time to chat with friends.

When they have finished their lunch, they will make their way outside as a phase (two year groups) and play together. This will give them chance to play with children who aren't in their year group which I know is something the children have really missed.

So, all there's left to say is....

We are really looking forward to starting the year in a more normal way and cannot wait to welcome you all back in September so that St Gregory's can be a huge team, who spend time together, once again!

If you have any questions about the new road map for September, please email us at school and we'll answer them as soon as we can. There has been a lot to think about and it may well be that we have forgotten to share some information with you in which case we need to know.

Also, please watch out for the reviewed risk assessment that will be in place from September 1st and if anything has been missed, please help us by letting us know and working alongside us.

If any of the above plans alter, it will be in response to our ongoing risk assessments or government directives and they will be in line with our Outbreak Management Plan which can be found on our website.

Finally – I cannot let these next steps begin without saying a heartfelt THANK YOU. Thank you for working with us so closely over the past 18 months and thank you for the support you've shown both to me personally and the whole St Gregory's Team. This has certainly got us through in the more difficult times. Our children are incredibly lucky to have both you and us on 'their' side making sure that the negative impact of this pandemic is as minimal as possible on them.

With heartfelt thanks,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ch Blanch'.

Mrs Charlotte Blanch