



St Mary's

Catholic Primary School
and Nursery

*Learning and living
together through faith
and education*

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25th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Everyone at St Mary's is really looking forward to welcoming **all children back to school on Monday 8th March 2021!** We are all relieved and very pleased that we are able to return our children to their classrooms, allow them to spend time with their friends and teachers and get back into the rhythm of the school year. I would like to thank you once again for your engagement and co-operation and to thank **all** our staff for keeping everything up and running on all fronts.

The system of controls which supports us to assess risk and implement measures to mitigate risk, including ventilating occupied spaces, enhanced cleaning, keeping socially distanced and retaining 'bubbles' of pupils **will remain in place**. We ask pupils, parents and staff to continue to do everything they can to adhere to these measures, as it continues to be vital that these systems are implemented well and consistently.

We continue to make our school a safe, enjoyable environment and it is important that ahead of time, we outline what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all our pupils and parents on March 8th. **Please make time to read through all of this information thoroughly.**

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory as the government expects all pupils to attend school again. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

Non-attendance due to shielding no longer applies. That means pupils must return to school as directed. However, if you have received individual clinical health advice that your child should remain at home, please provide the medical evidence and continue to follow that guidance. In this exceptional instance, we will be offering educational materials for your child to complete at home.

Punctuality

Initially the school doors will open from 8.40am until 9.10am and pupils need collecting between 3.00pm and 3.15pm. **Gates will be locked and unlocked accordingly.** Please note these timeframes are likely to reduce in line with the changes to Government guidance. We will communicate any changes to you in advance.

If childcare is required prior to 8.40am or after 3.15pm, please book your child into SMART Club. For all SMART club bookings, enquiries and information, please contact a member of the team on **07983 304425**.



Safety Measures

When your children come into school, we will continue as previously to have a number of protective measures in place to ensure the health, safety and well-being of everyone. We will upload a copy of the updated risk assessment onto our website prior to 8th March 2021.

We ask that **only one adult** brings and collects your child and that everyone continues to follow the signage and fully respects and complies with the systems and expectations we have in place. These systems have been established for everyone's health and safety, not to cause irritation or create barriers.

Please find below a summary of the safety measures.

- Best possible hygiene practices will be in place for everyone in school – Staff and pupils
- A significant number of staff have opted to take a COVID Test twice weekly
- Pupils and staff will be washing their hands on entering the building, before and after eating and at given points throughout the day
- Staff will be washing their hands before and after handling pupil books/ resources
- Some resources will be rotated or quarantined
- Good levels of personal hygiene will need to be observed by all pupils i.e. toilets, flushing, handwashing, cleanliness
- Enhanced cleaning regimes and patterns will remain in place including frequently touched surfaces, equipment, door handles, toilets
- Soap and water will continue to be available
- Pupils will be expected to continue to observe 'catch it, bin, it, kill it' routines with tissues, which will be available in all areas. Providing your child with their own small packet of tissues will also help with this
- Pupils will be encouraged to help staff in the end of day clean-down of surfaces i.e. their own chair and desk and any equipment they have been using
- Pupils must avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth as these are the mucus areas where the virus attaches
- Every item of your child's clothing must be washed regularly to limit the virus being transferred from school to home and from home to school.
- Staff will continue to be observing 'social distancing' including lunch and break times and wearing face coverings when in close proximity to others
- To minimise contact between pupils, pupils will remain together in class 'bubbles' – consistent teaching groups
- Some small grouped interventions will take place as part of our recovery programme
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will continue to be in classes – there will be minimal contact or coming together with other pupils and so as before, breaks and lunch times may have to be at slightly different times for us to be able to achieve this
- Class Bubbles will continue to have designated play zones which they will have to stay in
- If your child displays any of the recognised COVID 19 symptoms, they must not attend school. You must arrange a COVID test for your child and inform us of the outcome. Any positive test result must be reported immediately to enable us to instruct the remaining members of the bubble to isolate.
- Pupils will be taken outside as often as possible on a rota/ timetabled basis

- Teaching areas will be ventilated as efficiently and regularly as possible – when rooms are not in use they will have their doors and windows left open to allow fresh air to replace stale air
- Lunches provided by school will be picnic style rather than in the Hall and have a hot and cold option. All lunches will be eaten in classrooms. If your child is bringing their own packed lunch from home, please ensure all cartons and utensils are disposable and your child is able to open and access all the wrapping and seals
- Pupils will need to bring their own individual water bottle – rinsed and re-filled daily with fresh water (no juice)
- There will continue to be a one-way system in operation around the school if anyone from the class group needs to move from their base
- Movement around the school will be limited and pupils will be asked to give each other space in the style now very familiar in supermarkets and shops
- Pupils will rarely be lining up; they will be keeping safe distances from each other and will need to move slowly between spaces
- Soft furnishings and soft toys will remain out of the working environment for the time being
- We will initially be unable to:
 - *sing*
 - *have assembly*
 - *access the trim trail*
 - *share resources*
 - *host whole school events*

(We will await further guidance relating to these areas)

- PE will be activities which can be undertaken at a safe distance from others and with equipment that can be sanitised or quarantined. We hope to exercise a lot more outside this time as the weather improves through the Spring and Summer
- Times of arrival and departure to and from school will continue and allow the designated parent to 'drop and go'
- Please use the designated entry and exit points – please follow the signage and the established one-way system (Y3 Y4 parents must continue around the system rather than doubling back by KS2 Hall)
- Nobody will be permitted to stay or gather on site
- Face coverings must continue to be worn by all site users – please ask if you require an exemption lanyard or require a replacement
- All conversations with staff will need to be pre-arranged/ pre-booked and need to be by phone or email.
- High standards in hand hygiene for everyone will be a key factor in keeping everyone safe
- Pupils will have their own individual resources. Pencil cases will have to be left in school
- **KS2 Pupils please bring their own hand sanitiser** (Years 3-6)
- Pupils will need to bring their reading folder daily
- Pupils will be seated in rows with space in between where possible (exam style)
- Resources that are not easily washable or wipe able will continue to be limited, quarantined or removed
- All pupils and adults on site will be expected to fully comply with all our guidelines and expectations.

- If pupils are unable to comply and therefore risk the health, safety and well-being of others, parents will be contacted and asked to collect them. If pupils cannot abide by the rules, nobody is safe and the risk increases.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information to process again after weeks of home schooling!

Curriculum

Although there will need to be some changes to recover learning loss, we will continue to do our best to provide an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum.

As previous, our plan is:

- to assess pupils returning to school to identify their starting points
- to prioritise the core subjects
- to focus on the children's emotional well-being
- to develop our remote learning offer further by exploring additional adaptations to the Class Dojo system and developing the use of Teams at KS2
- to re-open SMART Club to small consistent groups only. (It is really important that if you require regular, wrap-around care, that you contact Mrs Keenan to secure a place)
- not to provide the extra-curricular provision/ after-school clubs in the first instance until we can be confident of a safe and worthwhile experience

Pastoral Support

We are aware that this third lockdown and second school closure has been a particularly difficult time for many of us, including our pupils.

Please let your child's class teacher know if you think your child might need extra support when returning to school because they feel acutely anxious about coming back or they have experienced a bereavement.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have continued to receive from our school community. **Thank you!** We will continue to send updates and information to you if we need to make changes because of updated government or Local Authority advice/ guidance.

Please continue to visit our school website and keep up-to-date with your Class Dojo messages, both of which have all the information you need regarding returning to school.

We look forward to a happy, safe and successful return!

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S M Fau-Goodwin

Head Teacher