



St. Mary's  
Pre-School

"What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow"

# St. Mary's C of E School

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Headteacher: Mr T Milne

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are now in a position to be able to give you some more details about arrangements for the autumn term.

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back to school, as attendance once again becomes statutory. The children will be taught in class 'bubbles'. These bubbles will be kept as separate as possible from the other bubbles. Children will have lessons, breaks and lunch within their bubble and there will be limited movement around the school building. Outdoor learning will take place as often as possible in order to give the children more space and plenty of fresh air.

**Breakfast club and after school clubs:** These will be run in 2 separate groups within the hall at the usual times. We have been advised to keep these groups as small as possible so please only use these clubs if it is **essential** for you to do so. Due to the closure of the school kitchen there will be a smaller selection of food available and for hygiene reasons activities will be limited. Children will wash their hands upon entry to the clubs. Please ensure that you stand apart from other parents and children when you are dropping off and collecting children; parents are asked not to enter the hall. After school club will operate from the school playing field as much as possible, particularly during September and October while the weather is still warm (hopefully!).

**Lunches:** Hot lunches will be provided by our new caterers and can be ordered via ParentPay. Each class will eat lunch in a screened-off section of the hall, which will be cleaned between every sitting.

**Beginning of the school day:** Children can be dropped off at the playground gate anytime between 8.30 and 9.00 am. The children will proceed straight into school (each classroom will have a different entry point), wash their hands and then sit at their desk quietly with a set activity until lessons begin at 9.00. We ask please that only one parent brings your child to school and that you leave as soon as your child has come through the gate; this will ensure that we do not have crowds of people forming.

**End of the school day:** Children will be dismissed from school at the following times:-

Violet and Blue Classes: 3.00 pm

Green and Yellow Classes: 3.10 pm

Orange and Red Classes: 3.20 pm

Please enter the coloured 'zone' corresponding to your child's class on the playground at the allocated time. Again we request that only one adult per child attends at this time. Once you have collected your child, please leave the playground as quickly as you can. If you have children in different classes, please stay in your first zone with your first child until your next child comes out of school and then move into the new zone to collect him/her. Please do not allow children to exit the zones and run around the playground while you are waiting.

You can read the Department for Education's guidance for school re-opening at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Other measures we will be putting in place include:-

- Children will be asked to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day, particularly before/ after playtimes and before/ after eating.
- Assemblies will be delivered 'virtually', in classes or in small groups outside.
- Children should wear summer school uniform; we can be flexible with this if you are having difficulty finding exactly the right items.
- Children will sit at the same forward-facing desk next to the same child every day (not Violet Class).
- Children must bring only their lunch and a drinks bottle into school; no bags, pencil cases or other items please.
- Children will be issued with school stationery which they will keep at their 'work station' and use every day. We would be grateful if you could provide your child with their own pack of 10/12 colouring pencils and 10/12 felt-tip pens to be kept in school and used only by him/ her.
- Parents are requested not to enter the school building, except for urgent matters when you may enter the foyer and ring the bell for attention.
- Classrooms and toilet areas will be cleaned thoroughly every lunchtime.
- Extra-curricular clubs will not take place.
- Staff will not wear PPE unless an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at school and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained, where a child already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE or when First Aid is required and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.
- Children may come into school wearing their PE kit and wear it for the whole day on their class PE day; your child's teacher will let you know which day of the week this will be nearer the time.

In line with government guidelines, pupils must not come into school if they have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>) which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). In the unlikely event that any child or adult within a teaching group is confirmed to have COVID-19 (through testing), the whole group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

A large part of our re-integration plan for the autumn term will be easing the children back into the routine of day-to-day school life, as we fully understand that it may be hard for some children to come back to school after nearly six months away. We aim to initially focus on the children's mental health and emotional well-being and ensure that every child is well supported in reintegrating back into school. We are asking for your help in enabling us to understand how your child may have been affected by the pandemic and school closure by filling in the short questionnaire (attached) and returning it to school by email by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August** so that we can plan how best to support all children when they return to school.

The national picture may change during the summer holidays, so there may be elements of our plan which could change by the time we reach September. We will naturally keep you informed of anything which does need to change as a result of new guidance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and engagement during this very difficult time. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone back in September and we hope that you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Milne  
Headteacher