



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
KEEP CHECKING OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATED VERSIONS. THIS IS VERSION 1.**

STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES



Five tests for adjusting the lockdown

- 1** > The NHS has sufficient capacity to provide critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK
- 2** > A sustained and consistent fall in daily deaths from Coronavirus
- 3** > Reliable data to show that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board
- 4** > Operational challenges including testing and PPE are in hand with supply able to meet future demand
- 5** > Confident that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelms the NHS

Dear Parents,

As part of national social distancing measures to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), schools closed and since 23 March 2020, education and childcare settings have only been open to priority groups (vulnerable children and children of key workers):

As well as offering face-to-face provision for those able to attend, our school team have worked to support the remote education of those who have been staying at home.

We want to get all children and young people back into education as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know how important it is for their mental wellbeing to have social interactions.

We have now been asked to start the phased re-opening of our school and you will be aware that we have been asked to open on June 1st for Year Six, Year One and Reception. We also have to provide school for children of Key Workers, children with EHC plans and vulnerable children. Social distancing must be complied with in Year 6 and Year 1 so children cannot be sat within 2 metres of one another and so this essentially means that we cannot have more than seventy children attend school safely.

The guidance from the Government is just that, guidance only and open to interpretation by schools according to their numbers, staffing and classroom sizes. Having been working closely with other local schools, they all have different plans to bring children back to school safely, none of which are able to provide socially distanced places to all the recommended year groups plus the children who are vulnerable or have key workers as parents. We are therefore asking Year Six children to return on June 1st and if numbers allow us to do so, Year One on June 8th and then EYFS will return on June 22nd. We will ring all parents from these year groups beforehand to discuss your child's attendance.

If your child is not in one of those year groups, more Home Learning Packs will be uploaded on to our Website so you can continue supporting your child at home and we will send further online links and resources with our newsletter to further complement learning at home.

If you believe your child to be entitled to a place in school because you are a Key Worker and we have not contacted you already, please contact school before Thursday 21st May 2020. Your child will need to attend school every day.

Attendance

Many parents have indicated that they will not be bringing their child back to school as they do not feel that their child is safe. It is important to know that parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels.

If the Government cannot satisfy that all the tests have been met, school will not reopen but instead the care provision will continue for vulnerable children and those with parents who are key workers. Care provision is not available for children of non-key working parents who have returned to work.

As part of the plan to 'Stay Alert' to defeat the Coronavirus, we are being asked to stay at home as much as possible. Even with safety measures in place at school, we cannot and will not guarantee that children or staff will not be infected with coronavirus and neither can we prevent an outbreak in school. The decision to return your child to school is yours.

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs

There will be no clubs available until social distancing has come to an end.

Dropping-off and Collection

If you choose to send your child to school, they must attend every day. The school day will be staggered to ensure your children can be handed-over and collected safely. All children attending school need to be accompanied by an adult to and from school. If it is possible for you to come without your partner and other children, it would be most helpful in preventing overcrowding. Please stand on the playground with your child at 2 metres away from others and wait for your child to be called in and out to you. New classroom bases will be established on their return. Please observe social distancing at the main gate by stepping away from each other. This new way of working will require you to be prompt and patient. Please do not beckon your child to come to you.

Drop-off

8.40am – Key Stage Two Children

8.50am - Reception and Key Stage One Children

Collection

3pm – Key Stage Two Children

2.50pm – Reception and Key Stage One Children

Equipment and belongings

Your child will need a bath or shower daily and attend in freshly laundered clothes. If your child has long hair, please tie it back to prevent children from touching their hair and faces too often. We ask that children come in track suit bottoms, a tee-shirt and trainers with their school jumper or cardigan on top and they will need their coat too. When it is warm, children can bring a hat and please apply sun cream for them before arriving at school. It might be helpful to have a cool pack in your child's sandwich box too as we will not be able to store boxes in the usual manner. Children will need a simple, average sized pencil case with their name on it that they will leave in school. It should contain colouring pencils and felt tips. We will provide handwriting pens, glue sticks, rulers and pencils. All personal belongings will be kept in an individual box on their tables and will not be used by anyone else to reduce virus transmission. Children will keep their coat on the back of their chairs and sandwich boxes with them. They will also need a water bottle that they can open themselves for refilling with their name on it. These will be refilled regularly throughout the day but there will be no access to water fountains so this is a must. As all children will be accompanied to and from school by an adult, there is no need for mobile phones in school. Please do not send your child in with any other belongings including their reading books and homework book and even though children have worked tremendously hard at home, please do not send in any of the work that has been completed at home. There is no need to provide anti-bacterial wipes or gel. We have purchased units, similar to the one in the picture, for every classroom. Please let the office know if your child is unable to use hand gel.



Keeping safe

On entry into school, a non-contact thermometer will be used to take your child's temperature. These are in high demand so we will receive ours on 2nd June. Until then a sterilised standard strip thermometer will be used. Children will be isolated immediately and sent home if their temperature is above normal. Please do not send your child to school if they or someone in your family have COVID19 symptoms or any ailment that demand medicine or medical treatment in school. Asthmatics can attend as long as they can use their spacer and inhaler with supervision but not intervention. PPE is not expected to be worn by our pupils and will not be used by any member of staff apart from those who will be administering First Aid. If we feel the medical issue or injury is such that we cannot keep your child in school, we will contact home.

Communicating with school

Let us know immediately if your child has been directly affected by the illness or loss of a loved one through COVID19 and will need additional emotional support in school. Some children may have developed anxieties related to the virus too and it would be helpful to know about this so we can be prepared to help ease their concerns. Please ring the office if your child is going to be absent if they are attending school and immediately if your child has presented with COVID19 symptoms. For all other enquiries please ring between **9.30am and 11.30am** but before you do, please check that the information you require has not been communicated in this or other letters we have sent home, all of which will be on our website. As class groups will be split into smaller teams, all class teachers will be teaching full-time but they will do their utmost to respond to any queries and questions but please be patient. The office can be accessed if vital but social distancing must be observed so we can only allow one person into the reception area at a time. There will be markers outside to enable everyone to safely keep 2 metres apart. Please also be aware that the use of the toilet in the school reception area will not be available to parents, children or visitors.

Break times and Lunch times

The children will be able to access a hot lunch but they will eat in their classrooms at their desks. Break times will be replaced by regular PE sessions and there will be lots of time provided for having fun and relaxation activities during the day.

Curriculum

As we start back, there will be opportunities for children to talk about their experiences over the last weeks and opportunities for one to one discussion if necessary. We will teach children explicitly about social distancing and hand hygiene. Children will continue to pray and participate in regular worship in their small teams. Children will be taught a modified curriculum of English, Mathematics, Reading, Religious Education, Singing and Physical Education.

Payments

We will not be taking any payments in the office from here on in. All payments for lunches will need to be made online. We will not be taking uniform orders at present. Information on how to make payments will be forwarded to you.

Free School Meals

Free School Meal vouchers will not be provided during half -term. More decisions will be made by the DFE and LA and as soon as we have more information we will send it on to you.

Secondary Transition and Reception New Starters

Year 6 will focus on developing readiness for secondary school. We will provide you with any information regarding transition arrangements as soon as we are clear about processes for this. Some

School Trips

All trips are not cancelled but postponed so any monies paid will be held unless we are forced to cancel in the future.

Staffing

Unfortunately, Mrs Lambie will not be returning until September as she has very recently lost her Mother to COVID19. Sadly, Mrs Lambie lost her Father only a few months ago and she is understandably heartbroken. Miss Carver will be overseeing the teaching of Year 6 groups. We will hold a celebratory evening to say goodbye to our Year Six and Mrs Lambie will be attendance then.

School Reports and Parent/Teacher Meetings

As the children have not completed a full school year, our traditional school report format will not be used. Instead, all class teachers will write a letter to all parents regarding your child's school year and achievements and progress they have made. There will not be Parent/Teacher meetings this year unfortunately.

Toileting and Changing

Unfortunately, we will not be able to change children if they have soiled themselves so we will be forced to ring home and ask you to collect your child. Children will be able to access school toilet facilities one at a time. This way of working will be overseen by a member of staff.

Cleaning

School will be thoroughly cleaned each night and there will be intermittent cleaning of surfaces and some equipment throughout the day.

School Closure

School will be fully closed on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd for Staff Training on new ways of working. We will be re-opening on Monday 1st June 2020.

Final Word

You must know that we can only do our upmost to ensure children, staff and parents adhere to our new ways of working. As we get used to it, there will be occasions when we momentarily forget ourselves especially as children are such social beings and we are a close team. It is close to impossible to ensure social distancing is adhered to by children but we will try our upmost to keep each other safe and well throughout this difficult time.

