



**A family guide to returning to school  
during the phased return under  
restrictions.**

**Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**



## Phased Opening June 2020

Dear Families at St Mary's

We have all missed our St Mary's families and we are looking forward to being able to see some of you soon. It has been a long time for the children to be away from school and it is going to feel strange at first. We are all here to help in making this transition as smooth as we can. Unfortunately, though, our usual warm welcome may seem a little lost, with all the restrictions that we must adhere to. We will begin reopening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, **from June 15th onwards**. We will continue to be open for the children of critical workers, as we have done throughout 'Lockdown'. The following guidance has been produced to help parents and carers to understand how they can help us to gradually reopen our school in a safe and organised manner to help our children return to school. **Please note only children who have a confirmed place can return at this time.**

Please also be rest assured that whilst all the information can appear startling, your children will still be welcomed with the warm and loving faces of the team at St Mary's. They will be reassured, praised and helped to laugh and smile! They will be cared for and looked after.

As always if you have any questions please do contact the school office for advice. As we continue our journey back to some normality, we must all continue to be vigilant and keep safe.

Best wishes

Mrs K. Yuen

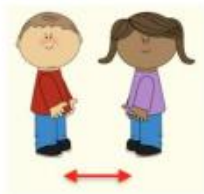


# A Social Story to read to your child, to help prepare them for the return

## Going back to school



I will be going back to school in *June*. I have not been in school for a few weeks because of the Coronavirus. The Coronavirus has made lots of people ill.



To stop people getting ill everyone has been told to keep some space between themselves and others (except for the people that live with us). When I go back to school, I will need to keep some space between me, the other children and the adults, this means not touching, holding hands or hugging but we can still talk and smile to each other.

I will be in a different classroom, the same friends will be with me every school day, this is called my 'bubble' group. I might have a different teacher or teaching assistant, but they will look after and help me and try to make my learning fun! I will stay with this group all day. I will eat my lunch in the classroom too!



I will have to sit at a table for more of my learning. I must try to stay in my chair. It is important I listen to what my teacher says because they are trying to keep everyone in school safe and well.

I will have to wash my hands a lot, so will my friends and the adults. Washing our hands keeps them clean and helps us to stay healthy.



Sometimes me and the children in my 'bubble' group will be able to go outside to play games. I must try not to touch my friends, even when I am outside. We must listen carefully and stay where our teacher tells us.



School will be different when I go back but I will see some of my friends and do some learning that I can talk about when I get home. The adults in school are looking forward to seeing me too.



## Before School

- Ensure your child is well enough to attend school. If in doubt, please call the office on 01604 581011 before bringing your child to school
- If your child or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of COVID 19, please inform school immediately. **DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.** Call 111 or visit [www.nhs.co.uk](http://www.nhs.co.uk)
- Children should wear their school uniform or school PE kit. No extra items or belongings are to be brought into school, please leave bookbags, reading books at home.
- The only items that you will need are: Lunchboxes (where applicable) and water bottles which will need to be taken home each evening to be cleaned and refilled.
- Ensure everyone leaving the house washes their hands for 20 seconds using soap and warm water
- Take the opportunity to remind children about safe practice such as coughing into elbows, 'catch it, bin it, kill it', not touching face etc..

## The Journey to School

- Plan your journey in good time; children must arrive at their specific time and be at their correct entrance
- Walk only with family groups - children will be excited to see one another but they must remain socially distant (2metres or more)
- Avoid public transport; take the opportunity wherever possible to walk to and from school.
- If you have to use the car, keep the number of people in the car to a minimum and ensure handwashing/sanitising occurs before leaving home
- Avoid popping to the shop on the way to school, do this on the way home if required.
- Please make a note of your start times as these are different for each year group. Please do not gather outside of the school gates or doors.

## Arriving at School

- Ensure that only 1 accompanying parent/carer enters the school site with a child/family group and please arrive at your child's allocated entrance into school, on time.
- Remain at least 2 metres away from others - markings and posters around the school site will help you to maintain this distance. Staff will be outside each day to support, so please ensure that you listen to their instructions and follow the 2-metre rule.
- On arrival, using our infra red thermometer, we will take your child's temperature. If the temperature is high, your child will need to go home straight away.
- Unfortunately, Parents will not be allowed into the school building. If you need to contact a member of staff, you just either phone the office or email
- Once children are dropped off at their entrance door, please leave the school premises straight away and ensure that you follow the one-way route, leaving through the green school gates.
- We have updated our behaviour policy to include our protocols for any instances of children not adhering to our social distancing rules. This is available on the website for your information.



## Pick up

- Ensure whoever is picking your child up is on time
- Ensure that your child/children are collected from their group door.
- Only one parent/carer will be able to come onto the school site to collect a child/ family group.
- We will ensure that brothers and sisters are together at the end of the day, they should be collected from the door where the child (with the earliest pick up time) in the family group is based.

- If you have any messages or questions for staff you must either telephone at the end of the school day or contact via email. The face to face contact that we are used to is not permitted during this time.
- Please leave the school grounds promptly and remember to follow the one-way route, leaving through the green school gates.
- Talk to your child/children about anything that maybe worrying them and please let us know if you think that we can help in any way.
- Remind children about safe practice such as coughing into elbows, 'catch it, bin it.

### St Mary's Return to school Actions

As a school we have tried our hardest to minimise risks through carrying out many risk assessments, however our school is a public place and therefore there will always be a number of risks which can never be fully eliminated. As a result of our risk assessments we have now put many safety measures in place including:

- A one-way system around the entire school site with clear signs to keep children and staff 2 metres apart, where possible.
- Strict hygiene measures, there will be increased hand washing for children regularly throughout the school day
- Hand sanitisers and tissues located around the school. Staff, and children will be asked to sanitise their hands as they arrive and leave school.
- Staggered pick up and drop of times and staggered playtimes and lunchtimes with designated zones for different class groups to have outdoor time.
- All rooms being used will be thoroughly cleaned each evening.
- In rooms, soft furnishings and resources/equipment which will not be used has all been removed and only toys and equipment, which can be easily cleaned, will be used. All children will have their own resource



packs so that equipment such as pencils, crayons and scissors do not need to be shared.

- In rooms used for each child will have their own table and chair where they will sit.

### Return to school new class groups

- Your child will be allocated to a new class group – this will be a small teaching group of children. This group will go about daily life at school as a unit: they will learn together, eat together and have outdoor time together
- Children from other groups will not mix even during playtime – this will reduce the spreading of any germs. If a member of a group displays any symptoms all children and adults from this group will need to isolate
- Each new group will be taught by the same members of staff in the same classroom, using the same entrance and exit doors etc. Our primary safety precaution is to reduce mixing across groups and therefore reduce the risk of infection
- Initially our curriculum focus will be upon the well-being of children, settling them back into school and ensuring they are safe and happy and that they understand the new rules and routines in place. We will then develop our timetables accordingly to ensure the needs of the individual children in each group are met.



## Drop off and pick up times

To ensure the safety of our whole community we have staggered the start times for all year groups that will be attending. Please help us to keep everyone safe by making a note of your child's time in school. We ask that parents do not gather outside the gates and follow the 2-metre rule whilst waiting to collect or drop off your child. This is the St Mary's offer and has been planned to ensure we can meet all the requirements with the staffing available to us.

Group	Drop off	Pick up
Reception	9.15am	2.15pm
Year 1	9.30am	2.30pm
Year 6	8.45am	2pm
Key Worker Group	9.45am	1.45pm

However tempting it might be to catch up with others at the school gate – please do not!

Keeping everyone safe on their journey to and from school is everyone's collective responsibility





## Prayers for the Pandemic: A Morning Prayer for a School Community

God our loving Father  
we gather together this morning  
but it's not the same: many of us are not here  
and there is distance between those who are –  
not the distance of fear or mistrust,  
but the distance of care, of thoughtfulness,  
the distance that will help us to stop the virus from spreading.

We pray for friends and classmates who are at home.

We know we will see them again in real life  
and value their real presence even more, the gift of friendship.

Help us to 'see' more clearly what is important,  
the good things we had perhaps overlooked,  
the small details of everyday life,  
graced with your presence.

We pray for a better world to come out of this –  
more grateful for the people who do the ordinary jobs,  
more just in the way people are treated, more caring for the vulnerable.

We pray for a world which is more determined  
to look after the earth, our common home;  
a world that will live wisely, think deeply,  
love generously.

We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Raymond Friel)