

**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(Aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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'Learning for life with God as our guide'

17th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

September 2020

We are all very much looking forward to a full return to school of all children and families in September and I am pleased to write to you with arrangements for September.

You will appreciate that these are unusual times and we have had to modify our working practices accordingly. School has remained open throughout the pandemic and staff and families who have attended during the summer terms are well-versed in the measures we have successfully put in place to protect all members of our school community.

Government guidance for the autumn term continues to be similar to that we have already been working to although, as the national rate of infection has reduced, some of our tighter controls can be relaxed.

Please see attached measures we will have in place to keep all members of our school community safe. Please note that these are subject to change should Government guidance be updated.

Induction

The first week of the school year will be used for induction in a steady and measured way so that all members of our school community become familiar with the arrangements and are kept as safe as possible.

Our new Reception children will have a series of 'stay and play' sessions from Wednesday 2nd September; I have written separately to these families with details.

When does my child return to school?

Classes 1 – 6 will **start** on the following days so that we build up to all of classes 1-6 being in attendance by Friday 4th September.

Wednesday 2nd September – Classes 2 and 6 start.

Thursday 3rd September – Classes 1 and 5 start (Classes 2 and 6 continue to attend).

Friday 4th September – Classes 3 and 4 start (Classes 1, 2, 5 and 6 continue to attend).

From then on all of Classes 1-6 to attend as usual with Reception Class building up to full-time attendance by 21st September.



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Classes

Children will be organised into class 'bubbles'. This is to reduce the spread of infection should someone be diagnosed with coronavirus.

The children in each class bubble will work and play together and will remain socially distanced from children and staff in other bubbles; for instance, Collective Worship will be in class, as will eating lunch.

Lunch and morning play will be staggered and drop-off and collection arrangements will be different to usual.

Drop-off

Morning drop off will be between 8:40am and 8:55am.

Children in Classes **R, 1 and 2** need to be brought to the Laureston Place gate.

Children in Classes **3, 4, 5 and 6** need to be brought to the Maison Dieu gate.

Adults dropping the children off will not be able to come on site. Staff will be on the gate and children are to make their way to class/line up with staff as required.

If you have a message for the class staff or school office, please email or telephone.

What my child needs to bring to school

Children can bring a small bag – preferred style:



These small bags can be worn on the back so hands are free, they can be folded and put away at school and are widely and cheaply available – see Amazon for example.

They will need a packed lunch (if they are not having a school meal) in a hard plastic box – for ease of cleaning. They must have a bottle of water as the fountains are out of use. They may bring additional drink to have at lunchtime.

School meals will **not** start in the first week so please send a packed lunch until you hear more information about this.

They will need to be wearing full school uniform, including school shoes.

A coat is needed, as the weather can be changeable. If it is hot and sunny in September, a sun hat will also be needed.

They will need trainers or plimsolls in a drawstring bag – in addition to the bag mentioned above - to keep on their peg.

They do **not** need a book bag or further PE kit at this time.

Please do not send in letters or monies. We will advise you when we know how school meals are to be paid for.

To start with, at least, we will not be sending reading books or homework books home.

Collection at the end of the day

We are setting specific collection times for each class in order to help with dismissal.

Please come to the relevant gate at the right time and form a socially distanced queue.

Please note that there will be no access to the school building – including for the toilet or to visit the school office.

If just one adult per child comes to collect at each gate it will help to keep the numbers as low as possible. If you have children to collect at both gates and have two adults who can manage this it would also help, otherwise collect your younger child first. Please let us know if this aspect does not work for you.

Staff will send the children to you.

Staff will telephone or email you with any messages.

As always, please let the school office know if anyone other than you is going to collect your child.

Please leave as soon as you have your child(ren).

Dismissal times are as follows:

Class R: 3:00pm – Laureston Place

Class 1: 2:50pm – Laureston Place

Class 2: 2:55pm – Laureston Place

Class 3 and 4: 3:00pm – Maison Dieu

Class 5 and 6: 3:10pm – Maison Dieu

Other matters

We will aim to re-start Breakfast Club from the week beginning 7th September – look out for further information regarding this.

Extra-curricular clubs will not run during the autumn term.

We will not be able to hold our usual ‘Meet the Teacher’ meetings in September; staff will write to you instead.



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Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for following the measures we have put in place. The arrangements will be kept under review and may be subject to change.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Helen Comfort
Executive Headteacher