

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

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:  
**Ms Helen Comfort**  
(B.A.Ed.Hons, NPQH)

ACTING HEAD OF SCHOOL:  
**Mrs Alison Trefler**  
(B.Ed. Hons)



Laureston Place  
Dover, Kent, CT16 1QX  
Telephone: (01304) 206887  
Fax: (01304) 205152  
email:office@stmarysprimary.net  
www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk

***'Learning for life with God as our guide'***

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I write to make contact with you all as the summer holiday draws to a close and to welcome you to the new school year.

Our new Reception children will have a series of 'stay and play' induction sessions from Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September; please see your individual letter with details.

Our other classes are due to return to school as follows:-

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Classes 2 and 6 start.**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Classes 1 and 5 start (Classes 2 and 6 continue to attend).**

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

**Full information was sent out at the end of last term, please remind yourself of these arrangements by re-reading the letter. Basic information is as follows:-**

**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**.

We have extended drop-off time to help with social distancing. Families must form a socially distanced queue and maintain social distancing when leaving. If just one adult per family brings their child to school that will help to reduce the number of people and make this easier and safer.

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 either before or after drop-off. Please do not speak with the staff on the gates at this point in order to maintain everyone's safety; we welcome telephone calls and emails as the safest means of communication at this time.

**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.



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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 during or after the school day.

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) and continue to maintain social distance from other families; your support with this important matter is needed.

#### **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

#### **Breakfast Club**

We will aim to re-start Breakfast Club from the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September and will confirm information about this next week.

#### **Food and Drink**

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

#### **Face Coverings**

You may be aware of developments this week regarding secondary school pupils and face coverings. The Government guidance for primary school children remains unchanged and is as follows:

Gov.uk 'Guidance for full opening – schools' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>) published 02.07.20, updated 07.08.20 states:

'PHE does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.'



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Face Coverings in Education Gov.Uk (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>) published 26.08.20 states:

‘On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided’.

We are following this guidance, so face coverings for children are not needed. If you have concerns around this and wish to discuss please contact me or Mrs Trelfer. Parent/carers at pick-up and drop-off can of course wear face coverings if they wish.

Typically staff will not be wearing face coverings unless they are, for example, administering first aid.

### **Coronavirus Symptoms**

If a pupil develops coronavirus [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-symptoms) of new persistent cough and/or fever and/or change of taste or smell and/or has tested positive in the last 10 days for covid they must **NOT COME TO SCHOOL**. They must self-isolate and parent/carers must follow Government stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Parent/carers must follow Government guidelines to arrange a test for the child <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> and inform school of the outcome of the test.

If anyone in a pupil’s household develops coronavirus [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-symptoms) of new persistent cough and/or fever and/or change of taste or smell and/or has tested positive in the last 10 days for covid the pupil and their family must NOT COME TO SCHOOL, the family must self-isolate and follow Government stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> and arrange for that person to have a test and inform the school of the outcome.

If a child is unwell during the school day, we will contact you for them to be collected; please ensure we have up to date contact details. If they have coronavirus symptoms, you will need to follow the guidance outlined above.

The staff will be following these same protocols.



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### **Quarantine Following Foreign Travel**

If you have visited an area of the world for which a 14 day period of quarantine is required on your return to the UK, please do not send your child to school until this time has elapsed – please contact the school office to advise.

### **New Starters**

We welcome new children to our Reception Class this year, as well as a handful of children and families to classes across the school.

In addition, we welcome new staff as this school year starts. Ms Daisy Craig will be teaching in Class 1, job-sharing with Mrs Emma Fagg, who returns from maternity leave. I have written to you previously about support staff who started with us during the summer term – Miss Jade Amer, Miss Megan Stone and Miss Claire Yearnley.

### **And finally....**

I am sure that you are experiencing a range of emotions regarding the return to school next week. The beginning of the school year is always a mixture of nerves, anticipation and excitement – for the children, families and staff – and, as you will all know, these feelings are magnified this year.

I am really looking forward to everyone coming back together again in September. We have a robust risk assessment with control measures in place, which successfully kept children, families and staff safe in the summer terms. Plans and protocols which will be in place next week will be kept under close review as we welcome more children and families back to school. I ask that you bear with us as we all settle into the new routine of this school year. I welcome your feedback so do please let me know on [headteacher@ststmarysprimary.net](mailto:headteacher@ststmarysprimary.net) how you feel the arrangements are working for you and your family.

Enjoy the last few days of the summer holiday and please be assured that we are all looking forward to working with you and your children during the forthcoming year and will be doing all we can to keep everyone safe, to support everyone's wellbeing and to provide a motivating and engaging curriculum.



**Helen Comfort**  
**Executive Headteacher**