

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

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

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I write to you all with regards to the full re-opening of school next week, **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**.

First of all I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to every one of you for all that you have managed over the last two months. I know that each family has lived their own unique experience and has dealt with the challenges placed upon them to the best of their ability.

We have been impressed with the learning activities which have been completed by the children, whether on their own, or with help from family members or from support staff at school. We also recognise and understand that completing much, if any, schoolwork may not have been possible under the circumstances. I thank all children, parent/carers and staff for their efforts during this time and for all that they have achieved in whatever form that may be – there is a great deal to be thankful for and proud of.

That being said, we are now all ready to move onto the next phase and I am pleased to outline arrangements for the full return to school of all pupils on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Much of the following information will be familiar to you, however, do please take a moment to read it, to refresh your memory and to share the relevant elements with your child(ren) as part of your preparation for Monday.

### **Classes**

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

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

Lunch and morning play will be staggered as will drop-off and collection arrangements.

### **Drop off and Collection**

All children in all classes, including our older pupils, must be brought to and collected from school by an adult –this needs to be someone from their household or childcare bubble.

If someone other than you is collecting your child please ensure that you have followed the usual procedure of informing us and that they are aware of our pick-up arrangements, remembering also to follow the lockdown rules regarding contact with people outside the household.

In order to ensure the continued safety of all children, staff and parent/carers we are making some small adjustments to our drop off and pick up procedures. Please read the following and note any changes for you and your family.



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### **Morning drop off - Laureston Place (Classes R, 1 and 2)**

This is not changing.

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.

Families must form a socially distanced queue, one for each class – look out for the cones so you know where to stand. Please 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, staff will guide them.

### **Morning drop off - Maison Dieu Entrance (Key Stage 2 - Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6)**

This is changing to help to reduce the numbers of children and adult that gather outside the gate at the start of the day.

To ensure the safe arrival of your children we will be asking one adult to come at a specific time (see below) with their child(ren) and walk up the slope from Maison Dieu onto the school site, taking care to stand at 2 metre intervals on the blue dots.

It would be appreciated if you could wear a face covering when doing this. All members of staff will be wearing face coverings.

At the top of the slope a member of staff will send your child to their class teacher and then you will continue back down the slope, via the exit route, to leave the school site.

If you have children in more than one Key Stage 2 class please drop both children off at the earlier time (e.g. 1 child in Class 3 and 1 child in Class 5 drop off at 8:40am)

If you have children in R, 1 or 2 as well as a Key Stage 2 class, please drop your younger child(ren) off first at Laureston Place and then come down to Maison Dieu to drop the other child(ren) off.

### **Collection at the end of the day**

We are continuing to set specific collection times for each class in order to help with dismissal and social distancing.

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

If just one adult per child comes to collect at each gate, it will help to keep the numbers as low as possible.



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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.

#### **Afternoon pick up – Laureston Place (Class R, 1 and 2)**

This is not changing. Please come to the entrance as usual and form a socially distanced queue. Staff will send the children to you.

#### **Afternoon pick up – Maison Dieu Entrance (Class 3, 4, 5 and 6)**

There is a slight change here in that we will be inviting parents from one class at a time (rather than two) to come up the slope. A member of staff will let you in the gate at your pick up time (see below).

As you get to the top of the slope your child(ren) will be sent to you so you can then make your way back down and leave. You will not need to come onto the playground at this time.

#### **Timings:**

Class	Gate	Drop-off time	Collection time
R	Laureston Place	between 8:40am-8:55am	3:00pm
1	Laureston Place	between 8:40am-8:55am	2:50pm
2	Laureston Place	between 8:40am-8:55am	2:55pm
3	Maison Dieu	8:40am	2:55pm
4	Maison Dieu	8:45am	3:00pm
5	Maison Dieu	8:50am	3:05pm
6	Maison Dieu	8:55am	3:10pm

#### **Parking Permits**

I would like to encourage you all if you are coming by car to use the Parking Permits we have for you and the Woolcomber Car Park. If you need a permit please let the office know and we can send one home with your child.

#### **What my child can bring to school, including food and drink**

Children can bring a small bag.

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 be available and can be ordered on the day. If your child is in KS2, and not entitled to Free School Meals, these must be paid for online, in advance, direct to [www.principals-catering.com](http://www.principals-catering.com). A new lunch menu is also attached for your information.

Children can also bring a fruit snack for morning break. Key Stage 1 children will receive a piece of fruit or veg daily.

The aim is that children should wear full school uniform, including school shoes. HOWEVER it is, of course, understood that children may have outgrown footwear and clothes in the last two months and that shopping opportunities are limited at the moment. Therefore, we will be flexible in our expectations at this point so

please do not worry if other items have to be worn until shops are fully re-opened and you have had time and opportunity to purchase.

A coat is needed as the weather can be changeable.

Please do not send in letters or monies.

**New information** - children should wear PE kits to school on the day they have PE – see table below. They do not need to bring uniform to change back into.

- Class R – Wednesday
- Class 1 – Monday
- Class 2 – Wednesday
- Class 3 – Monday
- Class 4 – Wednesday
- Class 5 – Tuesday
- Class 6 - Tuesday

### **Face Coverings**

All school staff wear face coverings in communal areas within the building and at drop-off and collection times. Some staff also wear face coverings when in the classroom. Children are not expected to wear face coverings, indeed Government guidance actively discourages this with primary aged pupils.

I ask that parent/carers wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children; this is not obligatory however, I know the school staff would appreciate adult family members undertaking this measure.

### **Workbooks**

Staff will be pleased to receive any work which has been completed at home – in workbooks or on paper. If you still have these please send them into school with your child next week, if you don't please do not worry – it does not matter.

Workbooks and work from last academic year will be sent home with children on their return to school next week.

### **Coronavirus Symptoms**

If a pupil develops coronavirus [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) 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>.



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If anyone in a pupil's household develops coronavirus [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) 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.

### **Curriculum**


We are all looking forward to having everyone back at school. We have worked to develop a curriculum for the rest of this term which focuses on supporting everyone's well-being and re-establishing each class as a safe and supportive cohesive group. As always teachers will also be working to gauge where the children are with their learning and using this information to plan accordingly.

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

The full re-opening of the school is to be welcomed by us all. Please bear in mind that lockdown restrictions continue and the rules regarding lockdown must be followed by everyone in order to keep our school community safe. I thank you in advance for your support this this.

I wish you all a good weekend and look forward to seeing you and your children next week.

Yours sincerely,



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



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