

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

FOUNDED 1789



EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:  
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***'Learning for life with God as our guide'***

31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

**Welcome Back!**

I hope you and your children are all as well as can be expected and that you have managed to have some 'down-time' over the holiday even though the weather has not been as kind to us as it might have been.

Please note below information to help you with your child's return to school this week.

Please be assured that there are no changes to the delivery and collection arrangements outlined in my letter to you at the end of the last term.

There are some general changes with regards managing COVID-19 in light of the latest government guidance which I would like to draw your attention to.

1. It is no longer recommended to keep children in consistent class group 'bubbles'. We will therefore be re-introducing Collective Worship in the school hall over the coming days and will be looking at developing lunchtime arrangements also. At morning break more than one class will be able to be outside at the same time.
2. Children and staff with symptoms of COVID, or who have tested positive, must not attend school, as before. Schools are no longer required to undertake any tracking and tracing work – the NHS will do this from now on. If your child tests positive 'out of hours' we do not need to know until the morning of the first day of absence – as with all sickness absence.
3. If a child or member of staff comes into contact with someone who has tested positive they need to arrange a PCR test but should continue to attend school/work while awaiting the result (provided they are well and have no symptoms of COVID). This is a significant change to previously.
4. If a member of a class tests positive for COVID there will not be an automatic closure of the class – again this is a significant change to previously.
5. There is no longer a need to have segregated drop-off and collection arrangements as we no longer need to keep classes separated – please see below for relevant timings etc.
6. I anticipate that we will be able to have parent/carers back in school for meetings, collective worship etc., – I will advise you when this is the case. For the time being please follow the drop-off and collection arrangements and continue to liaise with the school office via telephone and email.

We are looking forward to getting to know all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families. I would like to thank you, on behalf of all the staff, for the cards, gifts and best wishes received at the end of last term – they were all very much appreciated.

Thank you also for supporting us with our change of routine to keep everyone safe and well.

**DROP OFF AND COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-**



Canterbury Diocesan  
Board of Education

### **Drop-off**

Classes R, 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) – to come to the Laureston Place gate between 8:40am and 8:55am. We will continue to use both gates – Classes R and 1 to use the gate to the left as you are facing school, Class 2 to use the gate to the right. Mr Lamprell or Miss Yarnley will greet the children at the gate.

Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Key Stage 2) – to come to the Maison Dieu Gate between 8:40am and 8:55am. Mr Lamprell or Miss Yarnley will greet the children at the gate. The staff will be on the playground to meet and gather the children so your child can walk up the slope on their own.

If you need to drop children to both gates please go around the outside of the school site using Ashen Tree Lane and Laureston Place.

Please continue to liaise with the school office via telephone and email while we keep these arrangements under review.

### **Collection:-**

#### **Key Stage 1**

Class R will be dismissed from the same Laureston Place gate at 3:00pm, and Classes 1 and 2 from the Laureston Place gates at 3:05pm. The class teachers will dismiss the children to the parent / carers.

If you have a child in Class R and 1 or 2, please collect your Class R child and then step aside and wait until the other one(s) come out.

#### **Key Stage 2**

The Maison Dieu gate will be opened at 3:05pm for parent/carers to come on site to wait on the playground – there will be designated areas for each class of parents. Mr Lamprell and Miss Yarnley will be available to support arrangements at this time.

Classes 3-6 will be brought to the playground at 3:10pm and the children will be sent to the parent/carers by the staff. Please bear with us while children are matched to grown-ups, especially at the start of term while staff are still getting to know which grown-ups belong with which children.

If you need to collect children from both gates please start with the youngest at Laureston Place.

These drop-off and collection arrangements are a mixture of what we did pre-covid and what we have been doing during covid. As with all things, we will review how these work in reality and will tweak if we need to. Do please let us know if the arrangements do not work well for you and we will see what we can do to fix the problem.

### **‘MEET THE TEACHER’**

Class teachers will be creating some powerpoints with important information for the coming year. These will include: curriculum, homework/reading, forthcoming trips/special weeks/events, ways to help at home and school, ways to raise concerns and ask questions. We will let you know when these are available to view on the school website.

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

I am pleased to say that we will be gathering together again in the school hall for our Collective Worship.

On Fridays we have a ‘Celebration Assembly’. Sometimes a class will perform at this and parent/carers of these children are invited in the weekly newsletter. These dates are included at the end of this letter, but are subject to change or cancellation with the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Breakfast Club will start again on Monday 6th September. All children are welcome to attend – please contact the school office to place a booking. The daily charge is £2.20, which includes breakfast and childcare from 8:00am.

### **SPORT**

Children in classes 1-6 will need to bring a PE kit to school as they used to before COVID-19. This should be in a draw-string bag which they will keep on their peg. No carrier bags please. Reception Class will only need plimsolls in a draw-string bag from week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Children in all classes participate in two PE lessons a week, one of these being led by our Sports Coach. Over time we have seen ever increasing skill and fitness levels within the children as a result of this provision. Once the term begins teachers will let you know which days each class has PE. As a minimum, children in classes 1- 6 need a pair of blue shorts, a team coloured T-shirt, a pair of plimsolls for indoor PE and a pair of trainers to work outside.

We suggest that tracksuit bottoms/joggers and a warm top are brought in for outdoor games during the colder months.

I thank you in advance for your support with this important matter and look forward to seeing 100% sport participation at St Mary's!

### **WATER BOTTLES**

The water fountains will continue to be out of use so please send in a water bottle every day with fresh water. Children may bring an additional flavoured drink to have at lunchtime.

### **SAFETY REMINDERS:**

#### **Cars**

Please be advised that the zig-zag areas outside the school gates are **not to be parked on between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm-4pm**. These measures are in place to protect all members of our school community and your co-operation is anticipated and appreciated. If you are travelling to school by car please note that the St James Retail Park allows 1 hour free parking (this is any time during the day, but you will need to get a ticket from the machine) and there is no charge before 9am. Alternatively car parking permits can be obtained from the school office for free parking during drop off and pick up times for the Woolcomber Street Car Park.

#### **Mobile 'Phones**

Please be reminded that children are not, under any circumstances, to have mobile 'phones with them during the school day or on school trips. Thank you for your support with this matter.

#### **Play Equipment**

Our play equipment in the playground is for use by school age children at play and lunchtime. The equipment is **NOT** to be used by any children before or after school hours with or without parental supervision and is not designed for pre-school children to use.

### **TERM DATES**

As you will know from previous correspondence, holiday during term time will not be authorised and Penalty Notices (a fine) can be issued to parents who take children on holiday during term time. To assist you in booking holiday outside of term time term dates for 2021/2022 are noted below for ease of

reference. Information regarding our staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

### **Term Dates 2021-2022**

TERM 1 2021	1 September 2021 - 22 October 2021
TERM 2 2021	1 November 2021 - 17 December 2021
TERM 3 2022	4 January 2022 - 11 February 2022
TERM 4 2022	21 February 2022 - 1 April 2022
TERM 5 2022	19 April 2022 - 27 May 2022
TERM 6 2022	6 June 2022 - 22 July 2022

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
 Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
 Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
 Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021  
 Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

### **Dates for 2021/2022 Academic Year**

I thought it would be helpful to give you advance notice of some of the events, meetings and festivals that will be taking place during this academic year. Please note however, that although events are planned, they are subject to change or cancellation due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19.

#### **Term 1**

09.09.21	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
24.09.21	Class 5 Family Assembly
28.09.21	Harvest Festival at Church at 2pm – all classes
12.10.21	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm

#### **Term 2**

09.11.21 and 11.11.21	Parental Consultations (Classes R to 5) between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
12.11.21	Class 1 Family Assembly
19.11.21	Children in Need Day
26.11.21	Class 6 Family Assembly
03.12.21	KS2 Christmas Disco
08.12.21	KS1 Infant Nativity 2pm
09.12.21	KS1 Infant Nativity 2pm
14.12.21	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
15.12.21	KS2 Pantomime trip to the Marlowe Theatre
16.12.21	KS2 Carol Concert at 1:30pm at St Mary's Church

#### **Term 3**

14.01.22	Class 4 Family Assembly
21.01.22	Class 2 Family Assembly
28.01.22	Class R Family Assembly
04.02.22	NSPCC Number Day
08.02.22	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm

**Term 4**

03.03.22	World Book Day
08.03.22 and 10.03.22	Parent/Carer Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 5:30pm (by appointment)
11.03.22	Class 5 Family Assembly
25.03.22	Class 3 Family Assembly
31.03.22	Easter Service at St Mary's Church at 9:45am

**Term 5**

29.04.22	Class 1 Family Assembly
02.05.22	BANK HOLIDAY– School Closed
13.05.21	Class R Family Assembly
17.05.22	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
w/b 19.05.22	KS2 SATs week for Class 6
27.05.22	Class 4 Family Assembly


**Term 6**

20.06.22	Parent/Carer Consultations (Class 5) re: Kent Test
22.06.22	Sports Day
23.06.22	Reserve Sports Day
24.06.22	Class 6 Family Assembly
29.06.22 to 01.07.22	Class 6 Residential Trip
01.07.22	Class 2 Family Assembly
12.07.22	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
14.07.22	Class 6 Play at 2pm and 6pm
21.07.22	Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church 10am

We will, of course, notify you of any additions or changes as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to a successful year. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to any of the staff – we are always very happy to clarify any aspect of our work and to help you with matters related to your child.

Yours sincerely



**Ms H Comfort**  
**Executive Headteacher**