



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Ian Jones

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

SCHOOL RE-OPENING 8TH MARCH INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents

I am delighted that we have reached a position whereby we can allow pupils to return to school on the 8th March. As a parent myself, I have seen the impact lockdown has had on my own children in terms of their wellbeing and education and can't wait until school life returns to some semblance of normality.

Getting the green light to re-open is one thing, but, as the Autumn term highlighted- keeping the school open, with no bubble closures is quite another challenge altogether.

It is my hope that you make time over the next few days to read the information in this letter so that you can support us and play your part in reducing transmission rates of Covid in our school community. If we want to keep our school open, we all have a role to play in reducing transmission rates.

I recently attended an online national meeting for headteachers and one of the guest speakers was a doctor, called Dr Matt Butler. He was very keen to warn people against becoming complacent now that the vaccine rollout and self-testing kits had started and highlighted the importance of maintaining and following **ALL** the strategies available to us:

- Wear a face mask
- Keep 2m apart as much as possible
- When indoors keep rooms as well ventilated as possible (open windows and doors)
- Maintain regular handwashing
- Maintain Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- Maintain regular cleaning and wiping down of surfaces

Our leadership team have also been spending time over the last month thinking carefully about what our curriculum should look like (from March). We have been reflecting on how children responded during the Autumn term and have received training from psychologists and behaviour consultants. As we move forwards from March we will be adjusting our approach so that we place a greater emphasis on supporting positive mental health and wellbeing. We will be taking a steady approach to this and building up our practice as we go along. Please note, we will still be teaching all National Curriculum subjects, but also finding new ways to support the pastoral needs of our children. The Autumn term highlighted the significant impact lockdown and Covid has had on our pupils and families (particularly our older pupils), and no matter how many Maths and English sessions we throw at the children, they will not thrive academically if they don't have the headspace through anxiety and worry.

Routines From 8th March 2021:

Bubbles in the Classroom:

We are keeping our pupils in 'class bubbles' and each bubble will be together for much of the school day (ie- for all classroom learning).

We will not be gathering together in large groups for school Masses, assemblies or hymns.

Bubbles at Playtimes:

During outdoor playtimes, we are making use of four play areas. Each area has been split into half so that each class bubble has its own area to play in:

Play Area 1: Reception

Play Area 2: Year 1

Play Area 3: Year 2 and Year 3

Play Area 4: Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 (staggered so only 2 classes out at once)

Morning playtime and lunchtime playtimes are staggered slightly to allow classes that share toilet areas time to use them before another class does.

Bubbles at toilet time!:

Reception and Year 1 have their own toilets (linked to their classrooms) so the children do not meet pupils from other classes.

Year 2 and Year 3 pupils will be sharing the Infant toilets

Year 4, 5, 6 pupils will be using Junior toilets but we have allocated 3 toilets for girls and 3 toilets for boys and labelled them for each year group (ie- Y4 girls, Y4 boys, Y5 girls Y5 boys, Y6 girls, Y6 boys). This way classes are not mixing.

All toilets are cleaned more frequently (after morning play, after dinner time play, end of the school day).

Bubbles at Drop off - children can be dropped off from 8.40am, we ask that only one parent/carer from each family comes onto the school site and if possible children from Years 4, 5 and 6 to be left at the gate and walk up to their classroom by themselves.

Reception pupils to be dropped off at the Reception classroom.

Year 1 pupils to be dropped off at the Year 1 classroom

Year 2 and Year 3 pupils to be dropped off at the Infant entrance (round back of school)

Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils to enter school via Junior corridor door

Bubbles at Pick up - there are staggered pick up times:

Reception and Year 1: 3.00pm from Reception and Year 1 classroom

Year 2: 3:10 from Infant entrance

Year 3: 3:20 from Y3 classroom

Year 4: 3:20 from Year 4 classroom

Year 5: 3:20 from Year 5 classroom

Year 6: 3:20 from Junior corridor door

If you have children in different key classes, please pick the youngest up first and then move round to collect your older pupils. Older pupils can be collected at the same time as younger siblings.

If your eldest child is in Year 3 – please pick up Y3 before collecting your younger children – this will help keep the one-way system.

Parents on School Site

- Only one adult per child(ren) allowed on school site
- Parents are asked to wear a facemask as soon as they enter school grounds and wear a face mask for the duration of time on school site (outside and indoors).
- Parents are asked to follow our one-way system around the school building at drop-off and pick-up time.
- Please don't congregate and stay around to chat
- If you need to talk at length to a member of staff, this must be done by making a prior appointment

Learning Resources.

For individual and frequently used equipment, such as pens and pencils, staff and pupils will have their own items that are not shared. Classroom based resources, such as books and games can be used and shared within the class bubble; these are cleaned regularly along with all frequently touched surfaces.

Children do not need to bring anything in from home such as stationary, toys or things to show. If your child does wish to share anything with his class, please email a picture to the school office.

PE arrangements.

On your child's PE day children should come to school in their PE kits with their school jumper on top. They can wear trainers and tracksuit bottoms/leggings if the weather is cold. Please ensure that they have their black school pumps in school in case their PE lesson has to be held indoors.

The PE timetable is as follows:

Monday – Year 1 and Year 2

Tuesday – Year 3

Wednesday – Reception and Year 4

Thursday – Year 5 and Year 6

Attendance.

The Government's rules with regards to school attendance are as follows:

- It is the parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

Assemblies.

Assemblies will be replaced by a digital version and watched by children in their own classes.

School trips.

At this moment in time we are not planning any school trips.

Breakfast and after school club.

Padiwacks are still running their before and after school club from our junior building, they are following the Government guidelines and have their own risk assessments in place.

School office.

The school office is open but we encourage parents to avoid coming in unless absolutely necessary. Parents should do all they can to ensure that children have all that they need for the day when they are dropped off. We expect that most communication should be done by telephone or e-mail in the first instance

bursar@st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk or
c.whitlow@st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk

Facemasks must be worn whilst meeting with members of the school office/any meeting with staff.

Home/school communication.

We will continue to ensure that we communicate effectively with all our families, despite not being able to have as much face to face contact. We will use text, facebook, website and phone calls in order to keep you up to date with everything that is happening at school.

It is therefore crucial that we have your most up to date contact details so that you do not miss out on information and events that are happening in school.

Enhanced cleaning regimes.

We have adjusted our cleaning rotas with our caretaker and staff to ensure that much more cleaning goes on during the school day – with particular attention paid to those surfaces that are frequently touched like door handles, sinks, toilet areas. School staff, including teachers and support staff have also been helpful in keeping their own classrooms clean and extra materials have been provided for this purpose. We anticipate these arrangements will stay in place until further notice.

Behaviour policy.

In addition to our behaviour policy which can be viewed online, children must be aware of the new requirements and must:

- Stay at least 1+ metres apart from each other wherever possible (with a common sense approach taken to the Reception/Year 1 pupils)
- Use their own specific equipment (including resources) and not share any of these;
- Not share any food, drinks, cups or water bottles;
- Work, eat and play in our designated bubble and minimise contact with children in other bubbles (including in the playground, anywhere on the school site and on the way to and from school);
- Move around school as instructed by the teacher/support staff and avoiding other people;
- Never cough, sneeze or spit towards another child/adult; catch all coughs and sneezes in a tissue and throw it away (catch it, bin it, kill it), then wash our hands;
- Wash hands frequently (including whenever we are asked to), with soap and water for 20 seconds or with hand sanitiser if soap or water are not available;

- Not touch or hug anybody in school for any reason;
- Not bring or take home anything from school apart from a packed lunch if required.

Lunches.

Children are eating their dinners in the junior building. We are staggering lunchtimes and making use of three large rooms to ensure that bubbles are kept separate. All areas are thoroughly cleaned immediately after use.

Snacks.

EYFS and KS1 children will receive a piece of fruit daily, this will be distributed within their bubble.

School uniform.

We expect all children to wear their full school uniform, however, we will take an understanding view if you have not been able to buy new uniform due to lockdown.

Swimming.

Swimming will not take place at the moment and will contact parents if this re-starts before the end of the academic year.

Reading books from home.

School reading books will go to and from school in a plastic wipe clean wallet.

Good Hygiene:

Children are reminded to wash their hands at regular opportunities through the school day, after going to the toilet, before and after playtimes, on arrival to school, before leaving school.

We encourage children to use soap and hot water after going to the toilet and either soap and water OR hand-sanitizer gel at other times in the day. We have a good number of hand sanitizing stations around the school for staff and pupils to use.

We also follow the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' slogan in the event that a child sneezes or coughs.

Planning for further lockdown/closing certain class bubbles

In the event that we have to close school/close certain classes:

- A letter from school will be sent out to parents of all pupils affected
- We will switch to online learning so that pupils can access learning from home (a separate letter will follow detailing how to access this). Alternative arrangements will be made for pupils who cannot access online learning at home
- A school meal ('Grab-bag') will be provided for any pupils sent home who are eligible for Free School Meals. This will be delivered each day by a member of staff. Please note that the Government vouchers are no longer being used.

Illness/Covid-related symptoms:

What to do if	Action Needed	Return to school when.....
<p>My Child has Covid-19 symptoms;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIGH TEMPERATURE - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. • A NEW <u>CONTINUOUS COUGH</u>- this means coughing a lot more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24hrs . • A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE.- this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything. 	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Get a test. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULT</p>	<p>.....The test comes back negative</p>
<p>My Child tests positive for covid-19.....</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Bubble isolates/remote learning.</p>	<p>.....They feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks.</p>
<p>My Child tests negative</p>	<p>CONTACT THE SCHOOL Discuss when your child can come back to school (same day/next day)</p>	<p>.....The test comes back negative.</p>
<p>My child is ill with symptoms not linked to covid-19</p>	<p>FOLLOW USUAL SCHOOL ABSENCE POLICY PROCEDURE</p>	<p>After 48hrs following the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea if this is the cause of absence</p>
<p>Someone in my household has covid-19 symptoms</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Contact school. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Household members to get tested. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTS</p>	<p>.....The test comes back negative.</p>
<p>Someone in my household tests positive for covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Contact school Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days</p>	<p>.....The child has completed 10 days of isolation</p>
<p>NHS test & trace has identified my child has been in close contact of someone with symptoms of confirmed covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. CONTACT SCHOOL Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days</p>	<p>.....The child has completed 10 days of isolation</p>
<p>We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine.</p>	<p>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time. Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed. Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days from return date. Self-isolate the whole household.</p>	<p>.....The quarantine period of 10 days has been completed</p>
<p>We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL CONTACT SCHOOL Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.</p>	<p>.....School inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school.</p>
<p>My child's bubble is closed due to a covid-19 outbreak in school.</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL At home support your child with remote education provided by school. Your child will need to isolate for 10 days.</p>	<p>.....School will inform you when the bubble will be reopened.</p>