



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER – Miss NICOLA SLACK

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Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re-opening of schools for all pupils – Monday 7th September

In line with the government guidance, we are looking forward to welcoming back all pupils to St Mary's from the start of the Autumn term. Teachers will be providing lots of opportunities for the children to share their experiences of 'lockdown' and to support them with any anxieties that they may have about their return to school. As part of this work, I would be grateful if you could fill in the attached questionnaire to give staff some information about how COVID 19 has affected your family. This will help the school to support your child / children from the first day of term.

Many of the current measures we have put in place this half term will continue in September, as detailed below:

1. To enable social distancing, drop off and collection times will continue to be staggered. Parents / carers will need to drop off their children at the top of the school path from between **8.35am and 9.00am at the latest** as the school gates will be locked after this time. Older pupils may walk down the path independently, but younger pupils will be met and accompanied into school by school staff.
2. To minimise social contact in the car park and on the path at the end of the school day, pupils will walk up to the field with staff, where they can be collected by parents / carers from the gate to the field and we will stagger the finish time for groups of pupils:
 - Meldon and Venford (Y1) pupils need to be collected at 3.10pm (please note - those with older siblings attending school need to be collected at 3.30pm).
 - Fernworthy and Burrator pupils (Y3, 4 5 and Y6) and those using School Transport will finish their school day at 3.30pm.

Children will not be allowed to play on the field after school and we ask that parents / carers do not gather or socialise in the school car park in accordance with current government guidance.

3. Pupils will be taught in their class groups (as detailed in the information sent out with their end of year reports) and the school will create four zones or 'bubbles' so that pupils remain in consistent groups through throughout the school day (Early Years, KS 1, Lower KS 2 and Upper KS 2).
4. Please ensure that your child has a coat in school EVERY DAY as we will no longer be able to readily provide spares. The only other additional items required are a book bag / backpack / small bag and lunch box if needed.

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5. Please send your child dressed in their PE kit on the days that they have PE, to avoid the need for additional equipment to be brought into school. PE t-shirts are available from school at a cost of £4.50. Full PE kit is as follows - pale blue t-shirt (with or without school logo), navy or black shorts and plimsolls or trainers, (with elasticated vamp or Velcro fastening for the younger children). Tracksuit bottoms or leggings may be worn over **but not instead of** PE shorts.

PE will be on the following days for each class:-

MELDON (Whole class but only Reception children wear PE kit) – Wednesday and Friday

VENFORD (Year 1) – Tuesday and Wednesday

AVON (Year 2) – Monday and Friday

FERNWORTHY (Year 3/4) – Tuesday and Friday

BURRATOR (Year 5/6) – Tuesday and Thursday

6. Whilst in school, the following infection protection measures will also be implemented:
- pupils will be reminded about good hand hygiene and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will be reinforced
 - pupils will be reminded to wash their hands regularly throughout the day
 - hand sanitiser dispensers are positioned around school
 - frequently touched surfaces will be regularly and routinely cleaned by staff
 - pupils in each zone will use specific toilets, allocated to their class
 - break times will be staggered so children only mix with those children in their zone
7. School lunches will be provided, and further details will be sent out to parents / carers once menus have been agreed with our catering provider.
8. According to current government guidance, wearing a face mask in schools and Early Years settings is not recommended.
9. Visitors entering the building during school hours will continue to be kept to a minimum. Therefore, as parents / carers will not be accessing the school building, if you would like to speak to your child's class teacher about anything please contact the school office to arrange a telephone consultation.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information outlined in this letter and that the changes mean that the school experience at St Mary's will continue to be significantly different to normal school routines. Further details of government guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

We look forward to seeing all the children back in September and I hope that these measures will serve to protect staff and pupil moving forward in these difficult times. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss anything further outlined in this letter.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Slack

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