



St Mary's CofE Primary School – Returning Information for Parents and Carers (Summer 2020) – Reception

Although the school is reopening for Reception children, Covid-19 remains a high risk to all of us and we will be completely focused on reducing the risks of children, staff, parents, family members and other members of the school community becoming infected and infecting others within school and beyond.

We will be doing many things differently and we know this will be difficult for everyone to begin with. Your help in supporting the children and the school as we get used to the changes we will all be seeing and experiencing is vital. We have published some short films on our website which can help with this.

Reception pupils will be able to return to school from Tuesday 9th June

For Reception pupils, we will have three areas of focus:

- 1) Provision of a safe learning environment.
- 2) Pastoral support for their transition back into school and its routines.
- 3) Academic preparation for their transition to Year 1.

It is important to state from the outset that the children will not have the same experience of Reception as they did before the closure. Groups will be smaller and the day will be structured in a way which allows social distancing measures to be applied in a Reception setting.

While this will be unfamiliar to them, staff will support and help the children understand their new routines in a careful and considered way and will make every effort to ensure that the final weeks in Reception are as memorable and enjoyable for the children as possible.

Attendance

The Department for Education (DfE) has asked schools to 'strongly encourage' attendance but recognises that some parents will be reluctant for their child to return in the first instance.

As a result, all absence will be authorised but we are required to return daily figures to the DfE so will need to establish a reason for non-attendance. Parents will not run the risk of legal action should they keep their child away from school.

If you are not comfortable with your child coming back at the moment but change your mind at a later date and would like your child to return, please give us 3 days' notice so we can make arrangements to welcome them back in a safe and supportive way.



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Routines and Events

- The stringent cleaning and hygiene procedures introduced before the closure will be enhanced.
- The number of visitors entering the premises from outside will be strictly limited.
- The number of children in communal spaces at any one time will be minimised as much as possible.
- We will not hold any events which involve larger gatherings. There will be no assemblies, parent reading sessions, sports days, FOSM events or Church services.

Organisation

- Each class has been divided into two groups which mean no more than 15 children from a class will be in the same location at any one time. This is essential in allowing the school to follow social distancing measures.
- This does mean that your child may not be with the teacher they had before the closure. If this is the case, their new teacher will be supported by the teaching assistant who was with their class before. In this way, your child still has a familiar adult close at hand.
- Our Reception team is Miss Domagala, Mrs Holmes, Miss Atkins and Miss Greaves. They will be supported by Mrs Kirby, Mrs Cartwright, Miss Bushnell, Miss Wilkes and Miss Hagib.
- Your child will be told of their class once they return to school.
- Staff will direct your child to the correct classroom on the first morning of their return. Arrangements for movement around the building and for break times and lunchtimes will be explained to the children in detail.

Start and end of the day

Mon - Thurs	Dragonflies	Grasshoppers
Start	9.00	9.10
Finish	3.00	3.10

- We are able to offer education from Monday to Thursday on a full-time basis, part-time attendance is not possible.
- We are closed on Fridays to enable staff to have planning time (which they are legally required to have). This avoids the need to introduce other adults into the environment which we have identified as a transmission risk. Classes will receive a deep clean on Fridays so they are ready for the following week.
- The access point onto the site for both classes will be the Frederick Road entrance. We are aware that this may make things more inconvenient than before but we must regulate the amount of people using the two entrances onto the site and reduce the risk of congestion.
- Please note that travel from one side of the site to the other via the cube will not be possible. If you have another child accessing the school from Lodge Hill Road, please let us know and we will find a safe solution for this issue.
- Only one parent is allowed to enter the site to collect a child and parents are asked to observe a 2m distance between themselves and other parents. Please wait for your child in the designated waiting areas (these are marked).
- Parents must leave the site immediately after they have dropped off or collected their child.
- Please avoid face to face contact with staff if you can. If you need to convey a message to them, do this by telephone or by using the following email address: teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk.



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Key Worker Care

- This is not available to Reception pupils from Mondays to Thursdays as we are offering educational provision on these days.
- The key worker service is available for use on Fridays as we are not offering educational provision on this day.

Accessing the building

- Dragonflies will enter and exit the building via the school library door.
- Grasshoppers will enter and exit the building via their external classroom door.
- Children will exit the building as they entered but will be brought into the Frederick Road playground for collection.

Covid-19 Symptoms

- If your child demonstrates any of the stated Covid-19 symptoms at home, they must not attend school. If they demonstrate any of these during the course of the school day, they will be isolated from other pupils and a request will be made to collect them immediately, parents and carers must support us in this.
- The government's guidelines for reopening schools state that should a pupil or member of staff test positively for Covid-19, then the school will be instructed to take action. This may mean that groups of children are sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days. Parents are advised to have contingency arrangements in place should this situation arise.
- If you or a member of your family who has responsibility for dropping off or collecting your child demonstrates any of the stated Covid-19 symptoms, you must not enter the school premises under any circumstances and must follow the current government guidelines. Please follow the current advice issued by the government by using these links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

School Lunches

- We have identified the lunch period as a transmission risk, therefore the school hall will be out of use and hot meals will not be served. The school will provide a packed lunch for every child or children can bring a lunch in from home.
- If you would like your child to bring a lunch in from home rather than have a lunch provided by the school, please let us know as soon as possible.
- Their lunch will be eaten in the classroom area and their outdoor play will be organised so they do not come into contact with other groups.

Snacks

- The government's fruit for school programme is currently suspended so we are unable to provide a snack in the morning. You are more than welcome to provide a healthy snack for your child to have.

- We are still able to provide water and children can bring in a water bottle to drink from during the day. Please make sure it is clearly labelled with your child's name.

PE Kits

- We will not be providing PE lessons in their usual format between now and July. Children only need to bring in a pair of pumps or trainers to have available for use.



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Preparing Your Child

-Before your child returns, please discuss the importance of social distancing, the reasons for this and why they must follow the procedures we have put in place. These are very difficult concepts for our youngest pupils to understand but these are vital to minimise the risks to the health and safety of all.

-Take the time to explain to your child that they will be returning to a very different environment to the one that they left in March and use the video clips on our website to support you in this.

Pastoral Support

We know that this terrible virus will have affected many of our families and friends. If you think that your child will require support because of their experiences in recent weeks, for example the loss or serious illness of a relative, please contact the school in confidence and we can discuss the best way we can help.

The picture may change as time progresses and we will continue to follow government advice in managing our daily operations. If our arrangements change we will let you know but, in the meantime, we look forward to welcoming your child back next week and helping them to prepare for life in Year 1.



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