



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

Although the school is opening to all pupils in September, Covid-19 remains a danger within the community and we will be completely focused on reducing the risks to children, staff, parents, family members and site users for the foreseeable future.

We will be doing many things differently and 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 is vital.

Year 1 to Year 6 pupils will be able to return to school on Wednesday 2nd September 2020

For each pupil, we will have three initial areas of focus:

- 1) Provision of a safe learning environment.
- 2) Pastoral support for their transition back into school and the resumption of their routines.
- 3) Establishing where they are as a learner and identifying what needs to be done so they achieve the academic standards we would expect of them by the end of the 2020/2021 academic year.

It is important to state from the outset that children who have not been able to return to school since March will not have the same experience of school as they did before the closure. The Department for Education (DfE) has a 'system of controls' which has driven the management of returning pupils in recent weeks and these will continue to be in place from September.

This means that classroom layouts will be different; the school day and school week will be structured differently to allow safety measures to be applied and familiar routines will not be the same as they once were.

Attendance

The DfE has said that attendance is compulsory and there are no options for flexible attendance (i.e. part-time).

Preparing Your Child

- Before your child returns, please discuss the importance of social distancing and personal hygiene with them.
- Explain the reasons for this and why they must follow the procedures we have put in place.
- Take the time to explain to your child that they will be returning to a different environment to the one that they left in March.
- Use the video clips on our website to support you in preparing them.



READING
CONNECTS



Control measures

- 1) Classes in Years 1 to 4 will be managed as a 30 child 'bubble' and based in a single classroom. They will only come into contact with their teacher and teaching support staff allocated to the class. It may be necessary to provide additional learning support to small groups of children from both classes in a year group. If so, the year group will be designated as a bubble of 60 pupils with mixing limited to what is necessary.
- 2) Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 will be classed as a bubble of 60 pupils, this will allow for some aspects of the curriculum to be more effectively taught for these age groups. However, these classes will be managed as bubbles of 30 for most of the time.
- 3) A stringent cleaning regime and procedures to promote effective personal hygiene will be in place.
- 4) The number of visitors entering the premises from outside will be limited to those who provide specialist teaching or essential services.
- 5) The number of children in communal spaces at any one time will be minimised as much as possible.
- 6) We will not hold any events involving larger gatherings or mixing beyond that which is essential. There will be no assemblies, parent reading sessions, FOSM events or Church services until further notice.
- 7) Adults in school will be asked to maintain a 2m distance from children as much as possible and to limit any contact closer than this to no more than 15 minutes.
- 8) Movement between different parts of the school will be restricted and children will remain in their specific area of the school building for the vast majority of their time.
- 9) Contact with other adults beyond their bubble will be limited to essential interactions and for the minimum amount of time.
- 10) Parents must not enter the building unless they have a prior appointment. The exception to this is the school office reception area where there is a limit of one adult in this space at any time.

The school week and timings of the day

-The week remains unchanged from March but there are some adjustments to the timings of the school day as contact between all site users must be minimised as much as possible.

-To address this, we must use staggered start and finish times for each year group along with specific access points to reduce congestion and therefore contact. These are set out in the table below.

Notes: (FR – access point is the Frederick Road gate; LH = access point is the Lodge Hill Road gate; LHFD = access point to the left of the main entrance into school on Lodge Hill Road)

	RO	RB	1D	1G	2M	2B	3W	3K	4P	4S	5W	5T	6E	6F
Start	9.00	9.00	8.55	8.55	8.50	8.50	8.55	8.55	9.00	9.00	8.55	8.50	8.50	8.50
Finish	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.25	3.30	3.30
Access	FR	FR	FR	FR	LH	LH	LH	LH	LH	LH	LHFD	LHFD	FR	FR

-Only registered childcare providers will be able to travel from one side of the site to the other via the cube as there is usually congestion here at both ends of the day. If you have children who need to use different access points at the same time, please let us know as soon as you can 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 others wherever possible.

-Children must stay with their parent and not mix with other children or adults. Parents must leave the site immediately after they have dropped off or collected their child and avoid gathering on pavements outside gates.

-Please avoid face to face contact with staff if you can. If you need to convey a message, do this by telephone or by using the following email address: teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk.



READING CONNECTS



Accessing and leaving the building

- Children will be collected from their access point and taken into the building at the start of the day. They will be brought into the relevant playground for collection at the end. Please use the designated waiting areas.
- Arrive on site no earlier than 5 minutes before the start and end of your child's day. This is to reduce crowding.

Lunchtime

- We have identified the lunch period as a key transmission risk, therefore use of the school hall will be limited and there will be occasions where some children will eat lunch in their classroom. The school will provide a prepacked lunch for every child. Alternatively, children can bring a lunch in from home.
- School lunches will be provided from Monday to Friday and will be a combination of hot and cold meals. They must be pre-booked using our School Money system, please see the separate letter for more details.
- Outdoor play will be organised so classes do not come into contact with each other. Our limited outdoor space means that there will be days when your child may be involved in indoor lunch activities as well as outdoor play.

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.

Equipment

We must limit the items that children bring in from home but the following are permitted:

- Coats/hats/scarves/gloves
- Lunchboxes (if a lunch is being brought from home)
- PE kit
- Mobile phone (for older children only). The policy remains the same: a request in writing from the parent and, if granted, the device is taken to the school office at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day.

Pastoral Support

We know that the events of recent months will have affected many of families and friends. If you think that your child will need some support upon their return to school, please contact the school in confidence and we can discuss the best way in which we can help.

National and local lockdowns

We will follow the relevant guidance if a lockdown of any kind is imposed. The starting point for any resumption in the key worker childcare service will be to cater for children who had a place in July 2020. Initial offers of vacant places will be made to those currently on the waiting list and new Reception parents.

Further Information

The DfE has produced a guide for parents with more information about the return of all pupils in September. This can be accessed through the following link:

<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#arriving-and-leaving-school-or-college>

Management of Covid-19 symptoms

Isolation of individuals who exhibit symptoms of Covid-19 is the most important of the controls that schools have been instructed to follow by the DfE. The way this will be managed is explained on the final page.



READING CONNECTS



Covid-19 Symptoms

-Your child must not attend school if they demonstrate any Covid-19 symptoms while they are at home or on the way to school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

-If your child demonstrates any symptoms during the day, they will be isolated from other pupils and you will be asked to collect them immediately. Families must support us in this request in order to reduce the risk to all.

-DfE guidelines state that if a pupil or member of staff tests positively for Covid-19, then the school must inform the local board of Public Health England and it will be instructed to take action.

-This may mean that individuals or 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

-The school premises must not be entered under any circumstances if you or a nominated carer who has responsibility for dropping off or collecting your child has any Covid-19 symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

-We strongly recommend you arrange a test for your child should they develop symptoms of the virus.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

-Families are expected to follow requests and advice issued as part of the national 'Test and Trace' system that is now operating.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

Finally, all of us must accept that daily life is going to be different for the foreseeable future and schools are not exempt from this. We will not be able to operate as we did before but will make every effort to adapt and modify our usual ways of working for as long as it is safe to do so.

The return of Reception and Year 1 pupils has been successful and we are confident that we have systems in place which can be expanded to include all age groups. Some measures do cause greater inconvenience than before but all of these are underpinned by the need to make the school premises as safe as possible for everyone.

More detail about the measures we are taking can be found on the school website under the 'Key Information' tab. Here you will find a copy of the school's Risk Assessment which will evolve in response to any changes locally or nationally.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming everybody back in September.

Yours sincerely,
Mr S Smith
Headteacher



READING
CONNECTS

