



4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really excited to be welcoming all of the children back to school from Monday 8th March. We will continue with our staggered start and end to the day and the structure of the school day for the children will be very similar to the Autumn term.

Children will remain in their bubbles and will be able to play and interact with the children in their own class; desks will face the front from Year 3 upwards and will be placed in rows. EYFS and Year 1/2 classes will be less formal with activities around the room on tables and tough spots.

Older children will be encouraged to keep their distance and avoid touching others, particularly staff. Please support us by talking to your children about this at home.

We will continue to use the outside space as much as possible. Please make sure that your child has a water proof coat, they will be outside for some of the time when they are learning, and at break/lunch times. They will also be waiting outside at the end of the day for collection.

Staff will still try to maintain a physical distance from the children and we will continue to encourage excellent hand hygiene throughout the day. Staff will be wearing face coverings in corridors, communal areas and before and after school, please do not forget to wear yours when you drop off and collect your child.

For the safety of all, staff will only speak to parents at the gate if both parties are wearing a face covering. The children do not need to wear masks and these should not be brought into school under any circumstances.

As you talk to your children at home about their return to school, please do not worry them with talk of 'catching up' or 'being behind'. Teachers have worked hard to ensure that remote learning has enabled the children's learning to continue whilst they have been at home. When the children return to face to face teaching we will be focusing on promoting positive wellbeing and re-establishing routines and rules.

Teachers are already busy prioritising learning for the remainder of the academic year to ensure that all children are ready for the next phase of their education. As always, we will do our best to support the children's smooth return and to ensure that they feel safe and well cared for.

Covid infection rates are really slowing nationally. However, even when school reopens to more pupils, we will still be in a national lockdown which means that play dates and catching up with friends are on hold for a little while longer. It is disappointing to hear of some St. Mary's families that are not following lockdown rules. This is making the return to school anxious for some children and staff who have attended throughout lockdown. Let's persevere for just a little longer as there is light at the end of the tunnel now.

Please continue to send lunch in disposable bags. We need to continue to do this as we need to keep the school corridors clear and have relocated the lunch trolleys to the hall.

Below is a reminder of entrance and exit points for all children. For safeguarding reasons please ensure that your child enters and exits through the correct gate unless you have agreed an alternative with myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Headteacher: Mrs R Ayres

St. Mary's C of E Primary School, Station Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1AW

Tel: (01455) 637477 office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk

School will once again have staggered starts and endings to the school day. The side gates will open at 8.50am. The front gates will open at 9.00am.

Please use the allocated side gate for drop-off to avoid as much congestion as possible.

St Mary's Road Gate
Newton
Cousteau
Blyton
Cadbury
Hockney
Teresa



Station Road Gate
Hamilton
Jobs
Picasso



Church Walk Gate
Ali
Darwin



Details of start and end times are listed below.

Foundation will enter and exit through the front door. Drop off will be at **8.50am for Darwin Class** and **9.00am for Ali Class** and pick up will be **3.10pm for Darwin** and **3.20pm for Ali**.

Please adhere to the specified times to ensure there is no congestion outside school.

Years One and Two (Hockney, Teresa and Picasso) will enter and exit via the side gates on the bottom playground. The staff will be waiting to meet and greet and the children will be expected to line up on the socially distanced circles. Drop off will be at 9.00am and pick up will be at 3.20 pm.

If you have a child in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, please drop/pick up your child in Year one and two first.

Year Three and Four (Jobs, Cadbury and Blyton) will enter and exit via the side gates on the bottom playground. The staff will be waiting to meet and greet and the children will be expected to line up on the socially distanced circles. Drop off will be at 8.50am and pick up will be at 3.10 pm.

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Wellbeing Award
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2020-2023





Year Five and Six (Cousteau, Hamilton and Newton) will enter and exit via the side gates on the bottom playground. The staff will be waiting to meet and greet and the children will be expected to line up on the socially distanced circles. Drop off will be at 8.40am and pick up will be at 3.00 pm.

Please try to send children to school with one adult to drop off and pick up at the allocated time. You should only bring siblings if you absolutely have no alternative option. If you do need to bring siblings they will need to be by your side and adhering to the social distancing measures we have put into place. At the beginning and end of the day, please adhere to the social distancing signs and children will be sent to you one at a time.

Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual. Young Minds have created a useful poster highlighting ways to give support to children when they have angry feelings or outbursts and may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings. Download the poster here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/4291/when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf>

The NHS have also produced a booklet about school return which you may find useful to share with your child before Monday which you can read here <https://tinyurl.com/v2bys2d2>

Finally, please remember if your child is displaying ANY of the three main Covid symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal You MUST request a COVID test immediately.

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

(Other less common symptoms to consider are: diarrhoea, headache, sore throat, fatigue)

Home testing kits for families are available from Hollier's Walk Car Park.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. The past few months have been another huge challenge for us and your support has been very much appreciated. We are really looking forward to seeing you all in person on Monday morning.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Ayres
Headteacher

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