

27th August 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all managed to have some rest and fun over the summer. We are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school next week. I am writing to keep you updated with essential information for the start of the Autumn Term. The government have relaxed restrictions and we seem to be returning to some sense of normality in schools. I would therefore like to remind parents and carers about the expectations for the start of the academic year at St. Mary's.

Uniform

Children can return to school in summer uniform in Term 1. After the October half-term all children need to be in winter uniform. The expectations for school uniform can be found on the school website [here](#). Uniform can be purchased from the Michael Hope website. We also have second hand uniform which can be purchased from the school office. It is a requirement that children have black school shoes, not trainers or boots. Please remember this before you go shoe shopping, as children will be picked up for wearing the wrong footwear. If you are struggling to provide school shoes for your son or daughter please give the office a ring or drop us an email.

All uniform needs to be named. Children also need to have a coat in school and we would be very grateful if coats could also be named as they often fall on the floor in the cloakroom.

Children will need their named PE kit in school from the start of term in a PE bag that can be hung on their peg. Please avoid very large bags as they also fall off the pegs and take up a lot of room.

Children will also need a pair of named wellies in school for play on the field.

Covid control measures

St Mary's Primary School remains committed to reducing the spread of Covid-19 and keeping everyone in our school setting as safe as possible despite the lifting of restrictions across England. The following information outlines how the school intends to achieve this as children return in September 2021.

What measures is the school putting in place in September to prevent outbreaks of Covid-19?

The Government has lifted most of its stringent restrictions on day to day life and has reviewed its operational guidance for schools. Schools are now required to have the following control measures in place:

- 1 Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- 2 Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- 3 Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- 4 Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.



Children will be taught about good hygiene through the Government's e-Bug website, which includes the following messages:

How to avoid catching or spreading microbes

There are things you can do to help stop viruses like coronavirus spreading.

Do:

- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin immediately
- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Don't:

- ✗ do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Pupils will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser throughout the day, particularly after play times and before and after eating and after using the toilet.

All areas of the school will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day. This includes the wiping down of tables and chairs, thorough cleaning of toilets and frequently touched surfaces such as light switches and door handles.

Staff will, wherever possible, keep windows and doors open to aid ventilation to occupied spaces whilst maintaining a comfortable working temperature. As the weather turns colder, staff will ventilate the classrooms thoroughly when they are unoccupied.

We will take advice from Public Health England when managing confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the school community and we have completed a risk assessment and outbreak management plan which is available on the school website.

What are the expectations for social distancing?

There is no requirement for schools to implement measures to maintain social distancing from September. However, we would recommend that parents and carers keep a safe distance from one another in the playground at dropping off and picking up times. We will continue to use separate entrances and exits and one-way systems to aid with this (see First Day Drop off below for further details).

We would also ask families to, wherever possible, limit the number of family members coming onto the school premises.

Will contact between groups of children be limited?

There is no requirement for schools to reduce contact between groups of pupils. Children will continue to be taught in their classes and specific groups for phonics and small group interventions. Children will be able to mix at playtimes across classes and year groups and we will reintroduce our normal playtimes outside.

We will also be reintroducing face to face collective worship (assemblies) in the hall, however this will be in smaller groups, rather than whole school, in the first instance.

We will revert back to our usual lunchtime routines as we are no longer required to avoid mixing at lunchtimes.

It may become necessary to re-introduce bubbles in the event of an outbreak. The school would follow guidance from Public Health England in this instance. Please see the school's outbreak management plan for further information.

What happens if a person (child or staff member) develops symptoms whilst at school?

If an adult or young person develops symptoms of coronavirus whilst at school they would be isolated in a well ventilated room until they can be collected or leave the premises. Young children will always be supervised by an adult. We ask parents to support us in keeping all members of the community safe by agreeing to collect children if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

We would then request that a PCR test is completed. If the test is positive, the infected person must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, the person can return to school if they are well enough.

What happens if a child or member of staff tests positive for Covid-19?

If a staff member tests positive for Covid-19 through a lateral flow test, they will need to isolate and take a PCR test. If the PCR test is negative they can return to school. If the PCR test is positive they will need to self isolate for 10 days.

What happens if someone lives with, or has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19?

Close contacts will now be identified through NHS Test and Trace who will work with the parents and school to identify close contacts.. Anyone who has come into close contact with someone who has tested positive through a PCR test or lives with someone who has tested positive will need to self-isolate for 10 days, unless:

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are under 18 years old
- They are on a vaccine trial
- They cannot have the vaccination for medical reasons.

Instead, close contacts will be required to take a PCR test.

When would pupils or staff need to self-isolate?

Pupils and staff would need to self-isolate for 10 days if:

- They have tested positive for Covid-19.
- They have been told to self –isolate by NHS Test and Trace.
- They have symptoms of Covid-19 (High temperature, new, continuous cough, loss or change in sense of taste or smell) until they take a PCR test and receive a negative result.

What happens if a child has to self-isolate?

Children who are required to self-isolate as a result of Covid-19 will move to remote learning and will be provided with access to a curriculum equivalent to the face to face education received by pupils in school. Children who are unable to attend school because of non-Covid related illness will not automatically have access to remote learning. This will need to be considered on a case by case basis by the Headteacher.

First day drop off

With the exception of the new Reception pupils, all children should arrive at school by 8.45am. Please do not arrive at school before 8.30am unless your child is attending breakfast club. Year 1 and 2 children should come in through the big gates at the bottom of the drive and the teachers, who will show them where to line up, will greet them. Year 3 and 4 children should come into school through the gate opposite the main entrance to the school and should go onto their playground to line up. Parents should then exit through the gate on the playground. Year 5 and 6 children should continue to come into school via the overflow carpark and parents should say goodbye at the gates. The children will line up with their teachers on the Y5/6 playground.

Our brilliant PTfA are planning to be around school on the first 2 days to welcome any new parents and children. They are also planning a welcome coffee morning in the first week back so keep an eye out for details about this.

Please can I remind all parents that cars must not, under any circumstances, be driven into the school car park at drop off and pick up. Parents must also follow all parking restrictions around school in order to keep children safe.

Welcoming new staff

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the following new staff:

Mrs Calabria – Pastoral Lead and part time Y6 teacher

Mrs Withers – Year 5 teacher

Mrs Makin – Year 3 teacher

Miss Browning – Year 5 teacher

Who to contact

If you have questions or concerns about matters relating to school or any matters you would like to share about children's life at home, please do get in touch with the class teachers in the first instance. They can be contacted through the school office on admin@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk. We do not give out staff email addresses, as the management of emails can become overwhelming for teachers in addition to their teaching roles. Please do not contact teachers through Seesaw.

If the class teacher cannot address your concern or if you wish to speak to a senior member of staff you should ask for a telephone appointment with one of the following:

Mrs Woolley – Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Walters – Years 1 and 2 – pastoral care and pupil well being

Mrs Cartledge – Years 3 – 6 – pastoral care and pupil well being

Mrs Pike - EYFS

Mrs Calabria – (Pastoral Lead) - safeguarding, friendships, attendance, pupil well-being and family concerns

Miss Selwood (SEN Co-ordinator) - special educational needs, learning, disabilities and access to education.

Please send an email to the school office for the attention of the staff member and they will be in touch.

Further information

Class teachers will be sending out further information specific to their classes in the first weeks of the term. Information about after school activities will also be sent out at the start of the new term.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday. Enjoy the remainder of the holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woolley

Headteacher.