

Update for parents

Friday 25th February 2021

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware from the government's announcement on Monday, primary schools will be opening fully to all pupils from Monday 8th March. The staff are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school and we know from the reaction of the children at home that the children are excited about coming back and seeing all their friends and teachers in real life again!

The following document will hopefully answer some of the questions parents may have about the children's return to school.

My child is worried about coming back to school – what will the school do to support them?

Many of our pupils won't have been into school for 11 weeks and naturally some children may be anxious about returning. The staff will ease them in gently on their first few days making sure that they reconnect with friends and get used to the routines of school again. All staff in the school will be extra vigilant in looking for signs of anxiety and pastoral support will be in place to help those children deal with these feelings. We will communicate with parents if we are concerned about any children who are struggling with the transition and work with you to help your child feel safe and secure. Staff will also plan some additional fun activities for the children to enjoy with their friends in the first few weeks back.

I am worried about my child coming back – does my child have to return to school on 8th March?

We understand that parents may be worried about children returning to school however the government have been clear in their expectation that school attendance will be mandatory from 8th March. This means that the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- Parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school.
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with the Local Authority's code of conduct.

If you are worried, please contact the school office and someone will get in touch to support you and your child in their return to school.

What will the school do to help children catch up with lost learning?

The staff are in the process of planning a curriculum for the remainder of this term to determine where children have gaps in their understanding and to address this through targeted teaching and support. There will be an ongoing programme of support for children who have fallen behind. Children will not be sitting lots of formal tests and much of the assessment will be carried out through normal activities in the classroom. There will be a focus on phonics, vocabulary, reading, writing and maths for the first few weeks however the children will still have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

How will the school keep my child safe from infection?

The Risk Assessment has been reviewed for the full opening of school and the system of controls to keep everyone safe have been agreed and shared amongst the school staff. The risk assessment will be published on the school website next week. We will continue to follow the system of controls in place prior to Christmas. These include:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend school.
- Ensuring adults are wearing face coverings in areas where social distancing is not always possible.
- Ensuring everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than normal
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene for everyone.
- Maintaining enhanced cleaning regimes.
- Minimising contacts between groups
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Engaging in asymptomatic testing for staff
- Engaging with NHS Test and Trace
- Manage and reporting confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst the school community.
- Containing any outbreak by following PHE advice.

Will children be taught in classes or year groups?

Children will be taught in class bubbles by their usual teachers for the majority of the time and will be kept apart from other groups where possible. Children may be mixing in wider groups for specialist teaching and wraparound care.

What equipment will my child need?

Children from Year 1 upwards will need their own pencil, rubber, ruler, pen, coloured pencils and pencil sharpener in a named pencil case. They will also need a named water bottle, PE kit and a coat. Children should bring bookbags to school.

Children in EYFS will be provided with the necessary equipment in class for lessons. They will need a named water bottle, PE kit and a coat. Children should bring bookbags to school.

If you collected PE equipment from school for your child to use at home (hoopla hoops, balls, beanbags etc) please can your child bring them back into school when they return.

Will the school be providing hot meals?

I am currently working with the staff to plan lunchtimes. We will let parents know the details of lunchtime routines next week.

Will drop off and pick remain the same?

We will continue to stagger drop off and pick up times from the usual places. Please see the table below for times.

Drop off routines:

Class	Entrance to school	Drop off time
Cherry	Cherry external door via KSI playground	08.55 – 09.05
Lime	Lime external door via KSI playground	08.40 – 08.50
Pear	Pear external door via KSI playground	08.40 – 08.50
Plum	Plum external door	08.55 – 09.05
Holly	Holly external door	08.55 - 09.05
Juniper	Juniper external door	08.40 – 08.50
Beech	Beech external door via Y3/4 playground	08.40 – 08.50
Willow	Y3/4 entrance via Y3/4 playground	08.55 – 09.00
Chestnut	Y3/4 entrance via Y3/4 playground	08.40 – 08.50
Maple	Fire escape	08.55 – 09.00
Ash	Y5/6 entrance via Y/5 playground	08.40 – 08.50
Elm	Fire escape	08.55 – 09.05
Rowan	Entrance by disabled toilet via Y5/6 playground	08.55 – 09.05
Oak	Far entrance by Oak class	08.40 – 08.50

Pick up routines:

Cherry Class children will be collected from the playground at 3.15pm.

Lime Class children will be collected from the playground at 3.00pm.

Pear Class children will be collected from outside Pear class on the playground at 3.00pm

Plum Class children will be collected from outside Plum Class at 3.15pm

Holly Class children will be collected from the bottom of the steps at 3.15pm

Juniper Class children will be collected from the side gate to their outside area at 3.00pm

Beech Class children will be collected from the external door by Beech Class at 3.00pm

Willow Class children will be collected from the Year 3/4 playground at 3.15pm

Chestnut Class children will be collected from the Year 3/4 playground at 3.00pm

Maple Class children will be collected from the Year 3/4 playground at 3.15pm

Ash Class children can be collected from the overflow carpark at 3.00pm

Elm Class children can be collected from the overflow carpark at 3.15pm

Rowan Class children can be collected from the overflow carpark at 3.15pm

Oak Class children can be collected from the overflow carpark at 3.00pm

Will there be breakfast club and after school club?

Breakfast club will be running from 7.45 – 8.40 every morning and Twiglets will run from 3.15 to 6pm each evening.

Government guidance states that where parents are accessing this provision for their children, they must only be doing this where the use of the provision is reasonably necessary to support parents to work.

We ask that parents do not use the provision for any other reason unless previously agreed by the school.

What happens if my child has to self-isolate?

If children are required to isolate, teachers will ensure that work is available on Tapestry or Seesaw. Children will be expected to complete the work and post it and the teachers will continue to provide feedback. Further details of remote learning provision is available on the school website.

Parents Evenings

Parents evening will be held remotely on Monday 15th March between 3.30pm and 6.30pm and Wednesday 17th March between 4.20pm and 6.50pm. Further details about booking will be sent out to parents today in a separate communication.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day this year is on Friday 19th March you can come to school with the craziest hair style, dress in red and paint your face. Or just do one of these things – but the crazier the better!! we are not taking cash this year, but you can make a donation via the Red Nose Day Donations payment item in ParentPay. Your donation will go directly to Comic Relief and will not be paid to St Mary's. Please note this donation **will not** purchase you a red nose - it is simply a donation to Comic Relief.

Children can paint a red nose on their face but we would ask that children do not bring plastic red noses into school. Thank you.



- Wear red
- Paint your face
- Go crazy with your hair

£1 – online donations only for comic relief (via the Red Nose Day Donations payment item in ParentPay)

Yours sincerely

Mrs Woolley
Headteacher