

# Update for parents: 9

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of Term 2. I hope you all had a good half term break.

## **New national restrictions from 5 November – what it means for St. Mary's**

### **Does my child have to attend school with the new national restrictions now in place?**

The government's aim is for all pupils to remain in school and the expectation is that all children attend school. Being at school is vital for children's education and their well-being and time spent out of school is detrimental for children's development.

### **How safe is it for my child to be in school?**

The risk to children of becoming seriously ill through coronavirus is very low. The benefit of children being at school far outweigh the low risk of coronavirus.

We continue to prioritise the well-being and safety of all our pupils as we enter into the second national lockdown period. The government and medical professions stress that it is very important that all children continue to attend school and we have ensured that protective measures remain in place to keep our pupils safe. Very little has changed for primary schools in the new guidance issued to schools. We continue to undertake risk assessments and implement the following systems of control to protect our school community as much as possible:

- Children are taught in their class bubbles
- Children are encouraged to clean their hands throughout the day
- Children and adults practice good respiratory hygiene
- Social distancing is maintained wherever possible
- Contact between people is minimised where possible.
- Bubbles use the same classroom throughout the day
- The mixing of children between bubbles is kept to a minimum.
- The number of adults teaching the children is kept to a minimum
- Visitors into school are only permitted when absolutely necessary
- Children, are wherever, possible spaced out within the classroom and desks face front in Y2-Y6 classes.
- Spaces are kept well ventilated
- Children are taught outside as much as possible.
- The number of children in the toilet at one time is restricted.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols remain in place.
- Drop off and pick up times are staggered and parents are encouraged to use one way systems and socially distance during these times.
- Children or adults who develop symptoms of Covid are isolated and sent home.

- Pupils who are ill are asked to stay at home.
- Visitors to the school are asked to wear face coverings when walking around school.

### **Does my child have to wear a face covering?**

In primary schools there is no change to the guidance and pupils do not need to wear face coverings.

### **Will the teachers be wearing face coverings?**

Some teachers may choose to wear face coverings in situations where they are unable to keep their distance from others.

### **What if my child or someone in my household is clinically vulnerable?**

The Government states that most children who are clinically vulnerable do not need to shield but parents should speak to medical professionals and take advice.

Children who doctors have advised are clinically extremely vulnerable should stay at home,

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable can still attend school.

### **What happens if someone in the school is tested positive for Covid-19?**

I will continue to keep parents fully informed of any positive cases of Covid in our school. In the event of a child or member of the school staff testing positive for Covid-19 we will continue to follow the guidance set out by Public Health England and the government.

### **What happens if someone in my household develops symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19?**

Please refer to the NHS guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

**Please remember if anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive for Covid-19 or if you have been in close contact with someone with Covid-19, you must stay at home and self isolate.**

## **Other news**

An email was sent out to parents today to say that in the absence of birthday parties we will be celebrating children's birthdays on the last Friday afternoon of every month in school. Please check your email for details.

### **Parents' evenings**

Teachers will be available for virtual appointments with parents via School Cloud on Monday and Wednesday next week. I am delighted that most parents have been able to sign up for their parents' evening. If you have not already done so please make an appointment using this link: <https://stmarystetbury.schoolcloud.co.uk>

### **Stranger Danger**

We have received notifications today from the Local Authority that there have been further incidents of school pupils being approached in the Stroud area by men in cars. As far as I am aware there have



been two incidents in the last two days – both in Stroud. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to use the Clever Never Goes resources with your children: <http://clevernevergoes.org/>.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us by email or phone and please remember we are always here to support you through these difficult and challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Woolley

Headteacher