5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say an absolutely **HUGE** thank you, to you for all the support you have shown St Mary’s school and staff. Secondly, we absolutely cannot wait to welcome all of our children back to school on Monday 8th March. Below, I will outline steps we will take to ensure school is as safe as it possibly can be.

**Masks**

Unless you are medically exempt, please ensure you wear a mask and any children aged twelve and over.

**One-way system**

The one-way system will remain in place. Please ensure you follow the markings at all times. Only **one adult** to accompany children onto the school site.

**Bubbles**

The children will remain in year group bubbles for lessons and lunches. They will share the playground during lunch and break time, but remain in their own section.

**Drop off and collection**

There will be a staggered drop off from 8:45 -9:00am, gates will close promptly at 9:00am

Collection will be from 3:00pm, until 3:15pm, **please do not arrive before 3:00pm** to ensure parents are not queueing.

**Social Distancing**

Social distancing will remain, please keep 2 meters from those who do not live in your household, at all times.

**Restrictions**

Children must not mix indoors with anyone not in their support or childcare bubble. We really do want to help suppress the virus and restrictions to be lifted for all, as soon as possible.

**Children’s Testing**

We are part of the ONS study for the transmission of coronavirus. Your child is invited to be a part of the study and tested for coronavirus and to check if your child has developed antibodies. This is not the same test as you would normally receive for coronavirus. The antibody test is a lollipop that swabs the inside of their cheek. The coronavirus test swabs just the tip of their nose.

Staff are tested twice a week and if all children are tested we can ensure that no one is asymptomatically carrying the virus and help keep school safe and open.

The link, if you have not already signed up, is below.

[https://www.oc-meridian.com/Desktop/Portal/signup...](https://www.oc-meridian.com/Desktop/Portal/signup?id=cisschools&referalcode=140779&fbclid=IwAR3zrDm05FjxlTqtbmZJ8o0awaMby9p9udY8-Z2MtZe6Im-npXID8cnH11I)

and enter this number 140779 when requested

**Parent’s Testing**

All parent’s and members of your childcare and support bubble are invited to be tested twice a week for coronavirus. You can order the tests via this link or collect a box from your local testing centre.

Please help us in ensuring school is as safe as it possibly can be, for all our families.

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

**Bikes/Scooters etc**

Children must not ride on any bikes or scooters on the school site.

**Uniform**

We appreciate that clothes shops have shut and children may have grown. If you are struggling with any element of the uniform, please contact Mrs Jones, our parent support advisor and school will help.

**Earrings**

Earrings are not allowed to be worn in school for health and safety reasons.

**Lost Learning**

You might hear reports of catching-up lost learning, please do not worry that your children have fallen behind. Right now we need our children back in school, where we can best support them. I don’t think you need me to tell you just how amazing your children are and how excellent our teaching staff are here at St Mary’s, a lot of you have joined in our remote learning lessons and you will have seen the standard of work the children produce. Working together, our children will continue to thrive.

**Attendance**

From Monday 8th March 2021, school attendance will be mandatory. This means that the legal duty on parents of children of compulsory school age will apply. It is vital that children return to school as quickly as possible for their educational progress, wellbeing and wider development.

Where shielding advice remains in place for your child, it is important that you communicate this information to Mrs Jones, so we can ensure remote learning continues. We would ask for evidence from your child’s doctor or other medical professional, to support this requirement.

**Coronavirus Symptoms**

If your child or anyone in your household, support or childcare bubble is displaying symptoms of coronavirus, they must remain at home, leaving only for a test. If the test is negative, your child can return to school. If the test is positive, your child must self-isolate along with close contacts for 10 days. Please inform school immediately if your are self-isolating.

If you have been asked to self-isolate, you must not come to school.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club must be booked in advance.

**School Family**

We ask that as a school family, you keep in your prayers our families who are suffering loss. In particular the family of Leanne Knight. We hope the outpouring of love and support from the community, which surrounds them, offers some small comfort to the family and her friends at this heartbreaking time.

**Finally**, after so many reminders, I would just like to thank you for the support you have shown us as a school family - we are truly blessed to have such supportive parents and carers.

Hopefully, if everyone continues to follow the guidelines and work together to reduce the spread of this awful virus, we will once again be able to be together as a whole school community on June 21st.

God Bless,

Mrs Anna McClurey