



# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER – Miss NICOLA SLACK

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Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Re-opening of schools for all pupils – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

In line with the government guidance, we are looking forward to welcoming all pupils to St Mary's from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. After the previous lockdown, we asked parents / carers to complete a questionnaire about lockdown experience for the children and how COVID 19 has affected your family. We would like to do the same again, as a way of enabling the staff to support your child / children from the first day back. The questionnaire is being circulated with this letter.

The measures which were in place last term will resume again from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, in line with the latest government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>) and our school risk assessment, which are detailed below:

1. To enable social distancing, drop off and collection times will continue to be staggered. Parents / carers will need to drop off their children at the top of the school path between **8.35am and 9.00am at the latest** as the school gates will be locked after this time. Pupils may walk down the path independently with staff acting as marshals on the pathway into school (our youngest pupils will be met and accompanied into school by staff).
2. To minimise social contact in the car park and on the path at the end of the school day, pupils will walk up to the field with staff, where they can be collected by parents / carers from the gate to the field and we will stagger the finish time for groups of pupils:
  - Meldon, Venford and Avon pupils need to be collected at 3.10pm (please note - those with older siblings attending school need to be collected at 3.30pm).
  - Fernworthy and Burrator pupils and those using School Transport will finish their school day at 3.30pm.

Children will not be allowed to play on the field after school and, in accordance with current government guidance, may we remind parents / carers not to gather or socialise in the school car park.

3. Pupils will be taught in their class groups in four zones or 'bubbles' and pupils will remain in consistent groups throughout the school day (Early Years, KS 1, Lower KS 2 and Upper KS 2).

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4. Please ensure that your child has a coat in school EVERY DAY as we will no longer be able to readily provide spares. The only other additional items required are a book bag / backpack / small bag and lunch box if needed.
5. Please continue to send your child dressed in their PE kit on the days that they have PE, to avoid the need for additional equipment to be brought into school. PE will be on the following days for each class:-
  - MELDON (Whole class but only Reception children wear PE kit) – Wednesday and Friday
  - VENFORD (Year 1) – Tuesday and Wednesday
  - AVON (Year 2) – Monday and Friday
  - FERNWORTHY (Year 3/4) – Tuesday and Friday
  - BURRATOR (Year 5/6) – Tuesday and Thursday
6. The following infection protection measures are being implemented:
  - pupils will be reminded about good hand hygiene and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will be reinforced
  - pupils will be reminded to wash their hands regularly throughout the day
  - hand sanitiser dispensers are positioned throughout the school
  - frequently touched surfaces will be regularly and routinely cleaned by staff
  - pupils in each zone will use specific toilets, allocated to their class
  - break times will be staggered so pupils only mix with those children in their zone
  - staff are carrying out twice weekly lateral flow tests
7. According to current government guidance, pupils in Early Years and Primary settings are not required to wear face masks.
8. The government are introducing the availability of lateral flow tests for parents and the latest information is available on this link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>
9. School lunches will be provided as previously (menus are detailed on the school website (<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/parents/lunches/> )
10. Remote learning, e.g. through Purple Mash, will be provided for pupils who are unable to attend school due to COVID related issues.
11. Visitors entering the building during school hours will continue to be kept to a minimum. Therefore, as parents / carers will not be accessing the school building, if you would like to speak to your child's class teacher about anything please contact the school office to arrange a telephone consultation.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss anything further outlined in this letter and I look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school next week.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Slack

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