

St Mary's C.E. Primary School



Stocks Lane, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 2DF

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We would like to share with you information regarding what school will look like from September. We are aware some of your children have been attending school throughout the whole Covid pandemic, others have joined us since Spring Bank however we are very conscious that many of our children haven't been in school since March. It is our intention to make the return to school as successful and stress-free as possible as well as ensuring the highest standard of health and safety for pupils, families and staff. We hope that sharing these plans with you now will enable you, and your child, to have confidence in our processes from September. All children in Year 1 – Year 6 will start on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

Start and End of Day Procedures

From Spring Bank, we have been operating an external **one-way system**, this has proved successful in managing safe arrival to and departure from school. Our intention is to continue this into the Autumn Term starting in September. Anybody arriving on the school premises, from either down the drive or through the gates near the garages, must **walk around school building starting by the Year 6 classroom**, going across the playground and round through the reception playground. There will be markings on the floor to assist you. It is extremely important that you don't linger on the school grounds and maintain social distancing.

All children **will enter the school building through their classroom fire door** with the **exception of Year 2**. Year 2 will enter and exit using the junior playground door.

Classroom fire doors will **open from 8:40am** and will **close at 9:00am** when registers close. You can drop your children off at their classroom **between these times each day**. Fire doors will then reopen **between 3:15pm and 3:30pm** for you to collect your children. Any child still with us at 3:30pm, will need to be collected from the front office and this will be logged as a late pick up. By having a 20-minute window at the start and end of the day, we are limiting the number of parents on site at any one time. As has been the case this half term, **no parent will be allowed in the school building** to reduce risk of infection. If you wish to speak to a member of staff regarding your child we ask that you contact the relevant person by email or arrange a telephone appointment via the school office.

New Reception starters have received their start and end of day procedures in their New Starter Pack.

Attendance

Attendance from September is **vital and mandatory**. Parents should let us know if a child won't be present for any reason. Our usual policy of making a phone call to follow up first day absences will continue.

The School Day and Practicalities

As much as we would like to get back to normal, there are certain things that will be different in school from September.

- The pupils (and staff) will be expected to wash their hand thoroughly when they enter school and frequently throughout the day.
- Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in school. However, masks will be worn (along with other PPE) if a pupil becomes ill or needs first aid.
- Children in Year 2 and above will be facing the front and will sit in rows.
- Additional cleaning schedules have been put in place across school.
- We ask that the children **don't bring items from home into school**, this includes pencil cases, any stationery and any large bags. However, they will need to bring a water bottle.
- From week 2, **PE kits will be needed in school but only on the days they are needed**. This is to increase space in the classroom. PE timetable will follow in September.
- Home reading books will be provided from September but will remain within in a class bubble.

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- The children won't be using the cloakrooms – their coats will stay on the back of their chairs and their belongings under the desk. This is to minimise bubbles mixing.
- The expectation is that children will return to school in September **wearing school uniform**.
- There will be no whole school gatherings. Collective Worship will continue in the classrooms. We are looking into ways in which we can use technology to 'bring the school together.'
- We do intend to start running after school sports clubs, however to comply with Government guidance, these will be run for just one year group or bubble at a time. We will give further details regarding these in September.
- School Trips **will not** occur during the Autumn Term – this is to be reviewed for the remainder of the year in relation to guidance from Government and Trust.
- School will be limiting the amount and frequency of additional visitors into school

School Dinners

A hot meal option will be available for any children requesting one. These will be ordered using our existing procedure at the beginning of each school day. To comply with guidance, we are limiting the number of pupils in the school hall at one time and any pupil bringing a packed lunch from home will eat this in the classroom. They will, however, play out with their classmates as normal. Children eating in the hall will eat sat alongside those pupils in their bubble.

Playtimes

The children will still have playtimes outside. However, these will occur just within their class bubble. We are fortunate to have 2 school yards and this will enable two bubbles to play out at the same time without mixing.

Curriculum

Guidance from the DFE expects schools to prioritise gaps in learning and re-establish good progress in phonics and reading, with a focus on developing vocabulary as well as writing and maths. We will also ensure we deliver a broad curriculum, with our pupils being taught a full range of subjects. This will include PE but measures will be put in place to ensure equipment is not shared amongst bubbles.

Health and Safety

Please **do not send your child to school if they present any of the symptoms of Coronavirus**. If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus, they will be isolated, parents will be informed and they will be supervised by an adult from their 'bubble.' School will then follow guidance from Public Health England and follow any advice and guidance they suggest.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact school.

Mr Lee Spencer