



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham SE9 1UF

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headteachers@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

www.stmaryrc.org.uk

Headteachers: Mr Jonathan Sims & Miss Clare Phipps

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September Reopening

Dear parents and carers,

We hope that you have had a good summer and are looking forward to term starting in September. We cannot wait to see the children after such a long time away.

The following information is the DfE guidance and will be followed by the school,

Government Guidance

It is the government's plan that all children return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. School attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. For parents of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply. The small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Ultimately, local authorities and schools have a range of [legal powers to enforce attendance](#) if a child misses school without a valid reason.

Of course, there will still be risks while coronavirus remains in the community, and that is why schools have been asked to put in place a range of protective measures. In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when children return to school for the new academic year. Each school will do their own health and safety risk assessment and as part of this, there are certain approaches that the government has asked schools to implement which are essential to reduce health risks. Parents can support this by:

- *ensuring that anyone who has coronavirus symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, does not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school*
- *engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to [get a test](#) and you should inform your school of the results of that test*

Alongside this, the government is asking schools to ensure they are:

- *managing confirmed cases of coronavirus in the school, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days by their school (based on advice from their local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus*
- *ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser*
- *ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- *enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often*
- *minimising contact and maintaining distance, as far as possible - schools will decide how best to do this, as it will be different for each setting.*

It will be really important that parents help schools to implement these approaches by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance. If a school experiences an outbreak, either because they have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus among pupils or staff in their setting within 14 days, or they see an increase in pupil or staff



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St Mary's Catholic Primary School is part of The Greenwich Catholic Schools Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10762358. The registered office is at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Glenure Road, Eltham, SE9 1UF.





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absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus, they will need to contact their local health protection team. This team will advise if additional action is required. Where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school, if necessary. If your local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread. The government will be involved in decisions and will support individual schools to follow the health advice.

Where possible, children are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times, and to walk or cycle to school.

If your child has been wearing a face covering before arriving at school, it will be important that they understand how to remove it. The government has asked schools to have a process for ensuring face coverings are removed when pupils and staff who use them arrive at school. Children must wash their hands immediately on arrival at school, dispose of any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin, or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom. Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Travel Corridors and Self-Isolation

It is imperative that parents follow the advice regarding travel corridors and self-isolation strictly. If families have been away then they must follow the guidelines issued by the government. This guidance is updated frequently and the onus is on the parents to check the website to establish when children are able to return to school.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Wednesday 2nd September: Inset Day – children will not attend school on this day.

Thursday 3rd September: Children in Years 1 – 6 return to school.

Nursery and Reception parents have received a separate timetable stating children's individual starting times.

St Mary's Procedures

We will follow the government guidance issued above and these are the arrangements that are specific to St Mary's.

- Children will return to their normal class and teaching staff.
- Staggered break and lunchtimes will take place in the playground with each year group having a sectioned off area. Classes will mix within their year groups but not outside of this.
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged in school and children will be encouraged to bring in individual hand sanitisers to speed up this process.

To further reduce contact, parents will not be permitted on site. One of the biggest issues that we face at St Mary's is getting all the children into and out of the school at the start and end of the day in a socially distanced way. We only have one narrow pedestrian gate into and out of the school so have staggered the school start and end times. We are conscious



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that this will have the biggest impact on families with siblings in different year groups so have tried to shorten the gaps between these times.

We will review these times and our procedures after the first week and throughout this period.

If the staggered starts are proving difficult for your family, we ask you to work with other families in the same year group bubble or consider using the wraparound care provided on site. If you are struggling to find a solution then please contact the school to see if we are able to help.

As you can appreciate this involves us all working together.

September Opening 2020

	Reception	Year 2 & Year 1	Year 6 & Year 5	Year 4 & Year 3		Nursery
Arrival	8:30 am	8:45 am	9:00 am	9:15 am		FT Start: 8:30am FT Finish: 3:45pm
Break	10:15am	10:15am	10:40am	10:40am		AM 8:30am AM Finish: 11:30am
Break Finish	10:30am	10:30am	10:55am	10:55am		PM Start: 12:45pm PM / FT Finish: 3:45pm
Lunch	12:00pm	12:00pm	12:50pm	12:50pm		
Lunch Finish	12:45pm	12:45pm	1:35pm	1:35pm		
End of Day	2:50pm	3:05pm	3:20pm	3:35 pm		

We ask all our parents to:

- Drop off and pick children up on time
- Please comply with social distancing guidance and not congregate with other parents on the road.

Start of the day



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Children will line up outside the school in their year groups at their allocated time. Each year group will be directed to line up in either direction outside the school gate. School leaders will be onsite to ensure that this happens smoothly.

For Reception and Nursery year groups, the times above are for when children move to full time schooling.

End of the day

Parents will line up outside school adhering to their allocated times. Children will be dismissed from the school gate by school staff.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

All Kids Can will operate their wraparound care in line with the wider guidance on protective measures. This will start from Thursday 3rd September. Please contact them on stmarys@allkidscan.co.uk or [020 8836 8906](tel:02088368906).

School meals:

In these first few weeks, we will not be operating a hot meal service in school however packed lunches will be provided by our new catering provider Taylor Shaw should parents wish to purchase these. As a reminder, children from Year R to Year 2 can be provided with a packed lunch free of charge as part of the government's Universal Infant Free School Meal funding. If you wish to opt for a school-provided packed lunch please ensure that your child notifies their teacher so that this can be arranged.

All lunches will be eaten in class and children will then be given an allocated area of the playground to play in after eating.

Additional Clubs

We are not offering any additional clubs at lunchtimes or after school for at least the first half term. We will only introduce things gradually once we have routines in place.

Individual Music Lessons.

Individual music lessons are resuming with the appropriate safety measures. The music teachers will be in touch at the start of term.

Whilst there are new challenges with returning to school in these circumstances we were very pleased with how well the children adapted in the summer term. We know that with your support the children will make the best start possible to the school year.

Kind regards,

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