



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Phone: 01384 985005
<https://st-mary-bh.sch.life>
Interim Principal: Mrs I Borriello



Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following from Suzanne Horan's letter last week, I am writing to confirm arrangements for welcoming all children back from Monday 8th March 2021.

Firstly, can I take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to staff, parents & carers and our wonderful pupils for their resilience and hard work throughout a difficult lockdown period. I know I speak on behalf of staff here, when I say we are so looking forward to seeing St. Mary's pupils in person, rather than on a screen!

School attendance is mandatory from Monday 8th March. When we welcome you back, we will, for most aspects, be returning to the processes and procedures we had in place in the Autumn term. Although there is very much optimism and hope around the Government's "Road Map", we still need to ensure we are acting within COVID-19 restrictions to ensure the safety of all in our community, and to help us get to that hoped end date in June.

Arrival and Dismissal

Pre-School, Reception and Year 1 please follow the route around the back of the school, drop your child(ren) off at the first blue gate, continue through the second blue gate and make your way off the school site via the field and playground.

Years 2-6, please make your way down the drive, through the second gate of the main playground, drop your child(ren) off at the barrier and make your way off the site via the pedestrian path.

A reminder that there are videos of these routes on our school website (under the COVID-19 tab, 2020-2021 academic year).

In both cases, we ask that parents/carers wear a face covering during arrival and dismissal, unless you are exempt for medical reasons. It is also very important that parents and carers **do not** gather at gates, or on the school site; maintain social distancing and leave the school site promptly once dropping or collecting your child. This is key to making sure we are all protected from the risk of contracting the virus. Also, for safeguarding reasons, please can parents/carers ensure they stick to the designated routes. I thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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Our journey with Christ



Pre-School & Reception	Arrive between 8:40am and 8:55am Dismissal from 2:50pm
Y2, Y5 & Y6	Arrive from 8:35 Dismissal from 2:50pm
Y1, Y3 & Y4	Arrive from 8:45 Dismissal from 2:55pm

School gates will shut at 8:55am and 3:00pm

If you have more than one child in school, please use the earliest pick up time, and then pick up older siblings as before, if you have two different collection/drop off points.

A reminder that if you arrive outside of the allocated arrival/dismissal times, the driveway will be in use by cars, so for your safety, please use the pedestrian walkway only.

Communication with School

- We can currently only allow essential visitors onto site and therefore will not usually be able to offer in-person visits or meetings
- If parents/carers need to speak to school or a member of staff, please call the school office to arrange a phone or Zoom appointment
- Parents/carers can also email admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk with queries relating to absence/attendance, administration and any general enquiries
- Instead of the normal first aid slips, all first aid communication will only be made via the School Life app messages
- Parents/carers can email individual teachers with queries relating to school work or to inform teachers of any important information pertaining to their child.
- As we are relying heavily on communication with parents outside face-to-face meetings, please contact us immediately if you think your details with us might be out of date. The most efficient way to do this is via the admin email address.
- In emergencies when school is closed (for example at weekends) please use the "contact school" section in the COVID-19 tab.

What to bring to school

- Full bottle of water
- A packed lunch if not booking a school dinner
- Children will be encouraged to bring their own packet of tissues with them in order to follow the Catch it, Kill it, Bin it guidance- lidded pedal bins will be available in each classroom
- Coat or sun cream/sun hat depending on the weather
- All children should wear full school uniform
- On the days children have P.E. lessons, children will need to come into school in their P.E. kits
- (tracksuits on colder days)
- KS1 are invited to bring a healthy snack for their afternoon break
- Please do not bring any school bags into school (only a lunch bag)



Food provided at school

- Break time snacks such as toast, pancakes, crumpets and yogurts will be available to order via Parent Pay
- Hot dinners will be available to order for lunch time. Pupils order these in classrooms which are paid for on Parent Pay (if your child is eligible for free school meals, or universal free school meals, there is no charge)
- Parents/carers can also still order tuck shop items (on Parent Pay)

What will children be learning

- Wellbeing is paramount and therefore there will be a focus on wellbeing, circle time and DPA music activities. We also will be taking part in Relax Kids sessions with Sarah
- Children's learning will also focus on key maths and English skills initially whilst teachers assess what new key learning is needed
- Children will also access learning in all other subjects

Concerns about returning to school.

We all know and feel that we are still living in worrying and uncertain times. If you have any concerns about your child(ren) returning to school, please contact us and we will support you to alleviate your concerns. Equally, if your child cannot return as they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and have received a shielding letter, please contact school to discuss this.

DfE Guidance and Support

Please follow the links to key DfE documentation

[What parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

[Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)

Please also find our Risk Assessment on our school website.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs I. Borriello
Interim Principal

