



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

29th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Frequently Asked Questions

Please find below some question and answers regarding the phased reopening of St Mary's Catholic Primary School. The Government are sending through information every day and we will endeavour to keep you fully informed. This sheet will hopefully answer some of your questions.

When will our school be open?

If your child is in Reception or Year 6 children can return to school from the **1st June**. Key worker children will continue as normal, those eligible have already been attending since March, will also continue to be able to come to school.

What if I have another child in a different year group, other than Reception and Year 6, can they come to school too?

No, only the priority groups as listed above are able to return.

Has the list of eligible children changed?

At present the critical worker/key worker list from the Government has not been updated and therefore there is no change.

If my child is in one of the year groups that is eligible to go to school but I have told you that I do not want them to come, am I able to change my mind at a later date?

If you decide that you would like your child to start attending school, if you let us know by Wednesday then your child will be able to start back at school on the following Monday.

Will my child need to come in uniform?

Yes, please. They do not need to wear ties. Summer dresses can be worn. There is lots of spare clean uniform available to borrow if you need it. We understand that some children may have grown out of their school shoes so they may wear trainers.

Can my child wear PPE?

The latest Government guidance is that young children should not wear face mask under any circumstances.

Will I need to provide any equipment?

Each child will be given their own resource pack by the school, so no learning equipment will be required. You will need to provide your child with their own named water bottle, sun hat and please apply sun cream before school.

What if I need breakfast and/or after school care?

We will no longer be offering offer wrap around care. This is due to reducing the cross contamination of groups. Before school and after school care will remain closed until further notice, but we hope that this may reopen in the Autumn Term.

Will the start and finish times of the school day be the same?

No. We will operate a staggered start and finish - this is to reduce contact across groups and to control social distancing expectations. Most times slots will be 15 minutes long, therefore it is ***absolutely necessary that children are not late*** as we do not have the staff to take your child to their room.

Exit and Entrance to school?

Each group of children will enter and leave by a different gate. There will be no cars on the school site except for staff and those parents/carers with a disability. The car park gates will be closed at all times.

Can I still escort my child around the school grounds?

Not at the moment. Your child will be met by a member of staff at the gate and directed to their room. Following the Government guidance, please can we ask that only one adult, plus siblings, to drop a child at the gate. No adults will be allowed entry into the classrooms or into the school building. We also request that only someone from your household brings your child to school.

What will happen if my child is reluctant to leave me and clings onto me?

We recognise that this is an anxious time for the children and we will endeavour to reassure them as much as possible. I know that in the past we would take a child by the hand to enable the parent to leave, however, taking social distancing into consideration we are currently unable to support in this way and it may be necessary for you to take your child home again. If you have to take your child home, we are happy for you to try again later in the day when all 'social Bubbles' are in school. We will continue to work with you to support your child.

What if I have more than one child but they have different time slots?

Unfortunately, if you have siblings in any of the other Bubbles then you will have to drop both off at the latest time slot and collect both children at the same time from the earliest allocated time slot. Please ensure that you adhere to social distancing advice at drop off and collection. Thank you.

How do I contact the office or get messages to the staff?

The school office will be closed to all parents/carers. If you need to speak to a member of staff then please email or phone the office, a telephone appointment will be made for you if necessary, but otherwise entry into the school will not be permitted.

Can my child come to school with a runny nose or if they are feeling under the weather?

We want to keep all children in our care safe and well, so we are asking that if your child feels even slightly under the weather they do not attend school until they are better. Please call the school office to inform them of your child's absence. If we believe that your child is unwell whilst they are at school, we will contact you to ask you to collect them.

My child has to take regular medication or carry an Epi-pen/inhaler. How do I bring this in to school?

If your child requires regular medication/an auto injector or inhaler, please contact the school office to discuss.

Am I able to bring soap and/or hand gel for my child?

We will provide all soap and hand gel for the children. If your child has a medical condition that requires them to use specific soap, please contact the school office before your child's return in order that we can arrange for your child to bring their soap to school. Please do not send your child in with hand sanitiser.

Will my child be taught by their original teacher?

We will do our best to try and have a familiar face in the classroom but this cannot be guaranteed due to staffing levels.

Will my child get to play and work with their friends?

Only if they are in the same Bubble.

Will my child still have break times and play times?

Yes of course. They will remain in their Bubbles and will have designated times slots and areas for their Bubble. Staff are working on the types of activities that we can provide for the children, whilst adhering to social distancing rules. We will be using a range of resources that are allocated to their Bubble.

How will you keep the areas clean?

Working with the cleaners, there will be a greater level of cleaning, with regular deep cleaning across all the school. In every classroom, there will be antibacterial sprays and wipes, gloves, tissues and staff will clean desks and door handles throughout the day.

How will you keep the desks clean?

Children will have access to their own desk and chair throughout the day - no other child will use them. These desks/spaces will be 2 metres apart. Staff will regularly spray the desks and chairs with cleanser.

What will my child be learning?

To begin with the focus will be to welcome children into their 'Bubbles' and to settle them into their new routines of working. Then we will aim to follow the curriculum but a greater emphasis will be put on the basic skills of reading, phonics, handwriting and mathematics as well as PHSE, focussing on transition and PE.

Will home learning still be offered to those year groups not attending school?

Yes, this will continue but will be slightly different due to the teachers now being in school teaching different year groups. We also encourage the children to access the National Oak Academy and BBC online resources as much as possible.

How will you support my child's return to school in September prepare them for transition?

In July we will be communicating with pupils about who their new class teacher will be and which classroom they will be in.

My child has an EHCP, will they continue to get support?

Yes, but this may look and feel different to your child and their offer may be reduced.

If my child is in Key Stage One will they get their fruit for snack?

Unfortunately the company is not delivering fruit at the moment so **all** children will need to bring a snack for break time.

My child has been receiving Free School Meal vouchers, will this continue?

If you have been receiving supermarket vouchers and your child is returning to school, these vouchers will stop. They will receive a free school packed lunch at lunchtime.

If your child is not returning to school, you will continue receiving vouchers.

If my child is in Key Stage One will they receive their Universal Free School Meal?

Yes. A packed lunch will be ordered for them each week.

Will the lunches be hot meals?

No. We will provide packed lunches as it reduces cross contamination of resources and adults across Bubbles. All children will eat their lunches in their bubbles. This may change at a later date.

What are the lunchtime arrangements for children in Key Stage 2?

All children in Key Stage 2 will need to bring their own packed lunch in a box that can be stored under their chair.

Will St Mary's definitely open on 1st June?

The Government announced on the 28th May that schools will begin to reopen from the 1st of June at the earliest. We will communicate with you, in as timely a way as possible, of any changes to opening or which children are allowed in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'H' and 'A'.

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher