



25 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,



48 Brayards Road,
Peckham
London . SE15 3RA

We hope you are all are enjoying a relaxing summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Friday 4th September (Years 1-6). We have spent much of the summer planning our arrangements to reduce risk, with the latest government guidance released on the 13th August ([click here](#) to read full guidance). This letter will outline arrangements for starting school as well as the safety procedures that will be in place.

SEPTEMBER 2020: St Mary Magdalene Builds Back Better and Stronger!

As we have mentioned previously, the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of the upcoming autumn term. They have decided this on the basis of:

- The prevalence of coronavirus decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place
- More clarity about the measures that need to be in place to create safe environments in schools
- Time out of school being detrimental to children’s development
- The low risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus

This means that school will be **open to all of our pupils**. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on **Friday 4th September 2020**, and we are working hard to make the school a safe, enjoyable environment. I have set out below what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all of our parents and carers.

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government is due to pause this guidance on 1 August if there is a continued decline in coronavirus transmission rates. That means they should be able to come back to school in September.

However, if you’ve received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We’ll be offering remote education to these pupils.

Safety measures

When your children comes into school, we will have the following protective measures in place:

- There will be staggered drop off and collection times and parents and visitors will not be allowed on site;
- Children will only be permitted to bring school ‘essential’ items to and from (e.g. bags, reading books, packed lunch boxes, coats);
- Pupils will be in consistent bubbles of two classes (maximum). As much as possible, they will be supported by the same adults every day;

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- There will be a strict timetable in place including staggered lunch and playtimes, use of the outdoor spaces and the indoor hall, to ensure mixing between bubbles is minimised;
- Pupils will be asked to wash their hands on arrival, and a timetable to facilitate frequent handwashing will be in place. Lidded bins are provided in every classroom.
- Tissues, handwashing soap, and cleaning materials are provided for each class and will be topped up regularly;
- Seating arrangements will be put in place to ensure pupils are not facing each other, adults are instructed to observe 2-meter social distancing;
- We will set out these arrangements to our pupils via collective worship, and during their PSHE lessons in class. All whole-school collective worships will be virtual;
- We are expecting our pupils to come to school in their uniform except during their PE day when they can come to school in their PE kits;
- If a pupil (or staff member) develops symptoms at school, we have an allocated isolation room where they will be promptly collected by their parents/ carers. They will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days and they will be advised to take a COVID19 test.
- If there's a confirmed case, we are going to work with the Local Health Protection Team to identify which class/es will need to isolate;
- We will inform the whole school community of any confirmed cases;
- We will not be running any school trips during the Autumn Term unless the guidance changes.

Curriculum

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we will still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum.

Our plan is to:

- Deliver the St Mary Magdalene curriculum in FULL;
- Promptly and informally assess pupils coming back to school to identify their starting points and gaps in their knowledge created over lockdown;
- Prioritise regaining pupils' momentum in reading and to consolidate their arithmetic skills;
- Deliver a robust PSHE curriculum;
- Develop a blended learning strategy by strengthening the use of digital platforms to be implemented in case of a local lockdown or class isolation;
- Review marking and feedback to ensure it remains robust despite restrictions identified in the risk assessment;
- The school will not run its own after school clubs. We have however worked really hard to ensure we are able to provide a safe environment for pupils to attend Ultimate Sports' on site breakfast club and after school club. We are happy to announce that this can resume from September for all children who require it.

Pastoral support

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils. Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support when returning to school, such as if they feel anxious about coming back or they're experiencing bereavement.

You can get in touch with admin@smmsprimary.co.uk to do this.

Our plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time include:

- Availability of our pastoral support team to support adults and pupils;
- To support pupils who are vulnerable or who have difficulty re-engaging in school, we will make available a dedicated Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (Mrs Phipps) to provide 1:1 or small group interventions; Small group work or 1:1 support for pupils with SEND will resume from September. These sessions will follow strict social-distancing where possible.
- We have further developed our wellbeing curriculum for all pupils.

Start and finish times

We will be implementing a "soft start". This means that all children can arrive at school between 8:45 and 9:00am. Children will proceed straight into their classroom whatever time they arrive in this time frame. Year 5 children are to enter school through the front door. All other children should enter school via the back gate. In order to maintain social distancing, we request that parents queue on the pavement outside the back gate or front door to our school and wait for their child to be shown into the playground.

Reception and Key Stage 1 children will finish school at 3:00pm.

Key Stage 2 children will finish school at 3:15pm.

Class	Start Time	Finish Time	Notes	PE Day/s – children need to come dressed in PE kit for the whole day
Violet Class (Year R/1)	8:45-9:00am	3:00pm	Staff will take your child to class or bring them to the gate.	No PE kit required
Coral Class (Year 1/2)	8:45-9:00am	3:00pm	Staff will take your child to class or bring them to the gate.	Tuesday
Blue Class (Year 3)	8:45-9:00am	3:15pm	Staff will take your child to class or bring them to the gate.	Wednesday
Turquoise Class (Year 4)	8:45-9:00am	3:15pm	Staff will take your child to class or bring them to the gate.	Thursday
Purple Class (Year 5)	8:45-9:00am	3:15pm	Children to be dropped off and collected at the front entrance .	Tuesday
Green Class (Year 6)	8:45-9:00am	3:15pm	Staff will take your child to class or bring them to the gate.	Monday and Friday

Where there is more than one child in the family, we request that you collect your children at the start and finish times of your oldest child.

Southwark Council will go ahead with their plan to close part of Pilkington Road (between Brayard's Road and Sandlings Close) outside the school gates at the start and end of the day to permit parents to socially distance.

Please note that children will need to come into school dressed for PE on their PE days (see above).
PE kit means: plain white t-shirt, plain black jogging bottoms, plain black trainers and a school jumper.

FAQs

Will my child be allowed to bring a school bag into school?

Yes but please only bring essential items into school such as a packed lunch, a filled, named water bottle.

Can my child bring in their own hand sanitiser?

Yes – children are permitted to bring in a travel-sized bottle of hand sanitiser. However they must agree to only use it when the teacher the teacher says it is safe to do so.

Will my child be able to have school dinners as usual?

Yes, those who have school dinners will continue as usual. Each bubble will have their own separate sitting and the hall will be cleaned in between. Children who eat packed lunch will eat in the hall as usual.

Do I have to send my child to school in September?

Yes. Attendance is mandatory and parents may face being fined if they do not send their child to school. However, no child will be penalised if they are one of a small number of pupils who are unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). Please let us know if this is the case. If you are a parent of a pupil with significant risk factors and are concerned, please contact us to discuss your concerns so we provide you with reassurance about the measures the school is putting in place to reduce the risk.

What is NHS Test and Trace?

The school will engage in the NHS Test and Trace and will work with our local health protection team. Staff members and parents/carers will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.
- provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

What do I do if my child is unwell?

If your child is showing any of the COVID-19 symptoms then parents must notify the school and the child must remain at home and take a COVID-19 test. If a negative result has been received this should be emailed to the school office so they can arrange a return to school date.

If your child shows any of the symptoms in school, parents will be contacted to collect them and they will need to take a test, email a negative result to the office and have a date agreed for return.

For any other illness, please email the school office as per our normal procedures.

The key symptoms for COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

What happens if my child has a positive test result?

If the result of a test is positive, your child must stay at home and should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. The household must self-isolate for 14 days. The child must only return to school after the 10 days if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

What happens if a person in my child's bubble has COVID-19 symptoms?

School will work with the local health protection team to seek guidance on actions to be taken. Based on the advice from the health protection team, the school must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that

person when they were infectious. Names or details of people with Covid-19 must not be shared.

Household members of those children who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves or get tested, unless the child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.

In the event of the school or a bubble being closed due to COVID-19, we will provide learning remotely. We will let you know how to access all of this should a closure occur.

Will Ultimate Sports be running Breakfast Club and After School Club?

Yes. Please contact them separately to book this service should you need it.

Will after school clubs be taking place?

There will be no in school-organised clubs for the first half term. We will review this in line with government guidance and update you later in the weeks to come.

School Office

The school office will continue to be closed for visitors, however the school can be contacted by email or telephone during term-time between 8.30am and 4pm.

We realise that this is a lot of information and we will continue to update you as the guidance develops.

There may be a mixture of feelings surrounding school return for many of our parents and children.

Alongside the safety controls in place, we will be focussing on ensuring that the children have a positive start to the year and settle into their new year groups well. Wellbeing check-ins and practice will be embedded into the school day and we will work closely with families.

If you have any questions or concerns about the points we have set out above, please get in touch with us via admin@smmsprimary.co.uk.

We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice. We will share our risk assessment with you during the summer.

We are really looking forward to seeing you on Friday 4th September between 8:45 and 9:00am.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Harding
Acting Headteacher