



St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs. C.M. O'Hara B.Ed DPSE(Mus)



Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Full reopening news

As promised, this is the final letter detailing specific guidelines for the planned full re – opening of St Mary of the Angels, on **Monday 8th March 2021.**

The expectation is that ALL children will return to school, in a safe way that must protect people from harm. If you refer to the DfE Coronavirus Operational guidance for Schools (22/2/21), it states that:

schools have a legal duty to protect people from harm. This includes taking reasonable steps to protect staff, pupils and others from coronavirus (COVID-19) within schools. Schools must implement sensible and proportionate control measures which follow the health and safety hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level.

Schools must regularly review and update risk assessments - treating them as 'living documents' - as the circumstances at each school and the public health advice 7 changes. This is particularly relevant as the nation prepares to welcome back more pupils. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor that the controls are:

- *effective*
- *working as planned*

Staff and Governors are reviewing existing measures in place, in line with our Health and Safety Providers. As mentioned in all previous correspondence linked to Coronavirus and Risk Assessments, Governors and staff cannot provide absolute assurance that social distancing and safe hygiene methods will be maintained at all times. We can, however, guarantee that we will do our absolute best to ensure that the children and staff are as safe as we can possibly make them. We know that this assurance is said with total confidence.

Below is a detailed summary of the reviewed Risk Assessments and plans in place, which we require ALL parents to adhere to. Across Spring 2021, we have tweaked and innovated arrangements for a number of reasons, and parents have been very supportive following the regulations effectively. This makes our jobs in school easier and also reinforces in the children's minds that we expect rules to be followed. Thank you.

We are now really confident that the summary below is the best it can be.

From Monday 8th March 2021 **Arrival and Collection Details**

Staff will be available to support you to collect your children safely whilst respecting the need to maintain social distance. Please abide by the one-way system, as flow will increase with more children on site. Parents will not be permitted to gather on site- a free flow of people will be required each day.

Parents are advised that staff will not be able to engage in informal conversations, each day. There still are a couple of parents and grandparents who persist. This creates tension amongst busy, waiting parents and also

takes staff's eyes off the children in their care. Thank you in anticipation. Please refer to communication changes below.

Can my Siblings enter into school via one gate?

With the exception of children in Reception and in Nursery, who will enter through their normal gates (see below) all other siblings can enter school via the gate of the oldest sibling. Staff will manage the arrivals but it is down to you, as parents, to expect your child to co- operate and to be polite, safe and sensible.

Yr Gp	Start Time	Gate	End time	Gate	Comments
6	8.45am	Cranleigh Close	3.15pm	Cranleigh Close	Each morning and afternoon, parents to process in and around the play equipment as they did in Sep-Dec please. This will avoid bottle necking
5	8.45am	Top Pedestrian gate	3.15pm	Top Pedestrian gate	Parents and children to queue, respecting social distance, until the inner gate is open. Then parents to leave as children process in.
4	8.45am	Bottom car park gate	3.15pm	Bottom car park gate	Parents and children to queue along the green fence leading to the bottom car park gate, with respect to all others, until the bottom gate is opened. Then parents to leave as children process in.
3	8.50am	Cranleigh Close	3.10pm	Cranleigh Close	Each morning and afternoon, parents to process in and around the play equipment please. They will be guided initially, by Mrs Hayes and Mrs Kennedy This will avoid bottle necking
2	8.50am	Bottom car park gate	3.10pm	Bottom car park gate	Parents and children to queue along the green fence leading to the bottom car park gate, with respect to all others until the bottom gage is opened. Then parents to leave as children process in.
1	8.50am	Top Pedestrian gate	3.10pm	Top Pedestrian gate	Parents and children to queue with respect to all others until the inner gate is open. Then parents to leave as children process in.
R	8.45am	Reception gate	3.10pm	Reception gate	As happened in Sep-December
N	8.55am	Nursery gate	3.05pm	Nursery gate	As happened in Sep-December

Accessories and lunches

All children will need to be in school uniform. Please find a copy attached for your convenience. On the day when children have PE they will need to wear full school uniform PE gear all day- with non-labelled black tracksuit trousers (not tight leggings) and non-labelled black or red sweatshirts to keep warm.

All children will need to either purchase a school lunch via the gateway as usual (Reception and KS1 children do not need to pay, as usual) or to bring a school lunch from home. This will need to be in a labelled plastic /paper disposable bag- which will be thrown away after lunch-no sandwich boxes. This will limit the spread of infection.

No school bags will be permitted on site- to reduce unnecessary risk of infection. All children will be issued with a small pencil case and necessary resources. Homework will continue to be set via the *class pages* and reading books will be sent home on a set day and returned for quarantining, on a given day. (Please refer to class pages for details).

All children will need a coat and a water bottle each day in school, whatever the weather. We will be taking children outside as much as we can, despite a little drop of rain and/or wind.

What will my child/ren experience as they walk through the doors?

In line with Government guidance, all children will:

- 1) be together in their class bubble.
- 2) all children will be guided to wash their hands, on entry. This will be carried out throughout the day- approximately 5 times as they leave and enter the room and before and after eating.
- 3) Children will be supported to sit in rows, adjacent to each other with their school pencil/pen, book and be ready for action.
- 4) Desks will be front facing, with the exception of Nursery and Reception children who will have distanced group learning, in line with their understanding.
- 5) Pens and resources used throughout the school will be housed in a separate pencil case and will be cleaned down by children and staff twice weekly.
- 6) Access to break time zones will be twice daily (and 3 times for KS1/EYFS children). These break times will be supervised by familiar adults at all times; they will also be the same adults to minimise the risk of cross infection.
- 7) Children will be reminded to follow school rules and these will be regularly revised. **Behaviour Policy amendments are still in place and will be acted upon very quickly and consistently in the event of any antisocial behaviour that could increase the risk of infection; these include: hitting, handling, spitting, goading, taunting or scaremongering in connection with Co-Vid 19 symptoms. Please share this explicitly with your child, at an age appropriate level as we cannot condone inappropriate behaviour.**
- 8) Staff will be directly linked to a group- with no more than 5 staff having regular access to each group. These staff and groups will be kept at a respectable social distance from all other groups at all times.
- 9) Assembly times in the hall will not take place. Collective Worship will happen within each class
- 10) PE will be scheduled to take place either outside or in the hall once a week
- 11) Lunches will be eaten by children, in the school hall, in sectioned zones with no more than 3 classes in the hall space at any one time. Weather permitting, staff will then accompany children out after lunch for a 20 minute play. Children will be expected to follow rules and respect social distancing but to enjoy each other's' company, under staff jurisdiction.
- 12) Each class have been assigned their own sink, access to running water, soap, paper towels and hand sanitiser, where needed. Please remind your children how to wash their hands safely. Guidance is available on the home page of the school website under **Hand washing Guidance for children**
- 13) They will also be re assigned to specific toilets and will be reminded how to access their own play spaces.
- 14) All classrooms will continue to be cleaned down twice daily (once in the middle of the day) to ensure enhanced cleaning is in place.
- 15) Additional bins are in classes, once more, to ensure that paper towels and disposable tissues or gloves are safely removed twice daily, to reduce the risk of infection.
- 16) Corridors cannot be a one-way system as they are too narrow, however there will be limited need for children to cross over as breaks, entrances and play areas are staggered, and are also in differing parts of the building.
- 17) Signage and songs/posters will support good hygiene and will embrace a happy approach to the restrictions from all staff.

What will my child/ren learn?

Home learning will cease; school timetables and National curriculum requirements will be resumed. Once more staff will ensure that gaps in nurture needs and in core areas of learning, including R.E, will be identified. This will then enable staff to build on assessments from December 2021 and to plan the necessary learning journeys to ensure that progress is rapid and evidenced before the next assessment point in June 2021.

Our normal induction programme will be in place to address e-safety, RSE, Co-Vid anxieties, rules and expectations and safety awareness in school and out of school. This will be reinforced in the first week alongside full teaching. It will also be readdressed after the Easter Holidays for two days, running alongside normal teaching.

Class pages and projects will feature highly in Homework- onus will be on children and their parents to engage fully with homework, in line with the Home School Agreement. We aim, with your help, to really support these children who have had to contend with a further 2months of reduced learning provision. Where staff have already recognised a lack of engagement in homework, parents will be expected to arrange for their children to attend a weekly homework club in school. A donation to School Fund will be required for this service.

If your child has adopted some negative Lockdown associated habits, involving non engagement or a refusal to work, you will need to remind them that that cannot be the case from March 8th. Whilst staff will be sympathetic, they have been advised to report deliberate challenging, disrespectful behaviour so that we can nip it in the bud, before it impacts on others.

How can I help?

- Please look after children's log ins- you will need them again and again.
- Please be prompt. Staggered starts have been carefully planned to reduce congestion and therefore infection levels.
- Please make sure that you are logical and consistent about their attendance. If they are unwell, they will need to be treated, or checked for Co-Vid. If they are well then they need to be in school.
- Please ensure that your child has everything they need at the start of the school day- this includes a coat at ALL times, glasses, water bottles and lunchboxes. This prevents unnecessary interruption in classes and the spread of infection for our busy secretarial staff. Consistent deliveries to the front office will be politely refused.
- Please read and follow guidelines, especially about lunches and about personal belongings.
- Please respect staff. Some have vulnerabilities of their own; they need your social distance and your co-operation.
- Meetings that are needed can be via Microsoft Teams. Regular communication home is being factored into the working day for children in younger year gps. Please look out for information of this additional facility and respect it.
- Please continue to read all emails and information thoroughly, to avoid unnecessary phone calls. The website also serves as a reminder.

Additional information to support better communication and safety

During our last Full return to school, during the Autumn term, almost all parents were really vigilant. There were some, however, who were offended or did not like being reminded about school rules. Please do not be offended if you are:

- 1) On phone on site and asked to put your phone away
- 2) Too close to someone and asked to social distance
- 3) Allowing your children or grandchildren to run around unsupervised, unsafely, and reminded that in the school grounds, school rules about good behaviour and respect for others still apply.
- 4) Speaking disrespectfully to staff and reminded about mutual respect
- 5) Not wearing a mask and asked to comply
- 6) Arriving consistently late and therefore affecting the free flow of the site and asked to address this
- 7) and co-operation.

Governors have discussed and will have access to amendments of plans and risk assessments in place and recognise that:

- **all staff and adults will do all that they can to make the school community the safest it can be**
- **senior leaders will have the full support of all parents** in the stipulations set out above, and in previous communications

Wraparound care

The St Mary of the Angels Wraparound Provision (Breakfast and After School Club) will be opening on Monday 8th March 2021, for those children who have accessed the gateway and booked a place.

Please note the following changes to provision:

Breakfast Club will open at 7.30am.

- The staff car park will be out of use to all. Parents are reminded to respect this decision and to use the church car park or to park safely on the roadside
- All children will need to use the Nursery path to enter the site, each morning. A member of staff will be available to sign the children in, at the following times only: 7.30am, 7.45am, 8am, 8.15am, 8.30am. The bell will not be answered at times between these points, as staff will be fully engaged in maintaining close supervision in a safe way for all children
- Where children are reluctant to enter the building or upset, staff will require parents to manage these anxieties before the children join the club
- Children will follow appropriate handwashing routines
- Staff will also follow appropriate sanitary guidelines prior to preparing breakfast
- At the appropriate time, children will be escorted to their classes by staff
- Outdoor coats, water bottles and disposable lunch bags are the only equipment children will be permitted to bring to the club
- In the event of your child being unwell we will need you to take them home at your first available opportunity; they cannot return until Co-Vid viruses or symptoms have been checked
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Afterschool Club will operate each evening between 3.15-5.15pm only.

- The late evening provision (5.15-6pm) has been cancelled to facilitate an appropriate extensive clean down of all equipment
- Additional staffing will be needed to manage the front door
- On arrival, please ring the bell. Your child will then be sent for and brought to the front entrance. Staff will sign them out in your presence
- Children will be expected/encouraged to have all of their belongings with them to avoid unnecessary time spent in returning into the building. Please reinforce this for them.
- Children will follow appropriate handwashing routines
- Staff will also follow appropriate sanitary guidelines prior to preparing snacks
- In the event of your child being unwell we will need you to take them home at your first available opportunity; they cannot return until Co-Vid viruses or symptoms have been checked

Based on the evidence of our re-opening in the Autumn term, I trust that we will have your full co-operation to make this as safe and as positive as we can. We trust that you will again remind your child that there will be some restrictions and why.

Finally, we CANNOT operate with all children remaining in their class bubble- that would require 9 members of staff and 8 differing work areas. We CAN however, follow DfE guidelines and work in smaller settings (a *mini*, a *middle* and a *main* club). These groups will then form “*wraparound bubbles*” for your child, providing as much infection reduction as is feasible. These will be staffed by the same staff members in all cases.

And Finally...

11 months down the line, we are experienced in the processes described above. They are tried and tested and we have managed before, so will manage again. We do, however require you to work with us as we move forward. There will be permanent changes. Not everything needs to return to “how it used to be”. Some enforced changes have really proved to be better systems and more geared to 21st century thinking, for the children and staff here at St Mary’s. For that reason, keep abreast of emails and newsletters.

Hopefully, for the last time, thank you for your common sense approach to what has been and remains a difficult situation.

Have a great weekend... I believe the sun is on its way again- for a short while at least!

Regards

Claire O’Hara