



# St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

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



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents,

## **Post Lockdown Letter No. 8**

## **Planned Full reopening post Lockdown, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

Please find attached specific details for St Mary of the Angels return to school, in the new academic year, 2021/22. This is, as always, subject to change, in the event of escalation of virus transmissions dictating the need for further social distancing/isolation measures to be in place, in order to protect the children, the staff and the larger community here at St Mary of the Angels.

Please take the time to read the details and to put it somewhere safe so that you can refer to it, as needed, after the Summer Holidays. Please avoid the temptation to "just ring and ask" as secretaries will just politely direct you to this letter- *Post lockdown Letter No 8*, available in your emails and on the website.

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 update in mid June 2021, with reference to Step 4 of the Roadmap, it states that:

- *As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September*
- *nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools) and strongly encouraged (at childminders, nurseries and colleges)*

Staff and Governors are again, reviewing existing measures in place, in line with our Health and Safety Providers, to reflect the changes identified in Step 4 of the Roadmap. We will continue to do our absolute best to ensure that the children and staff are as safe as we can possibly make them.

Below is a detailed summary of the reviewed Risk Assessments and plans in place, which we require ALL parents to adhere to. Across Spring and Summer 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 in the best interests of all staff, all children and parents, too. Not every decision will be to everybody's liking, however, a best fit has been found, linking the positive innovations and change-s which Lockdown has afforded -with pre Lockdown practices which we wish to revert back to.

**From Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September ( Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September for New Nursery and New Reception 2021)**

**Arrival and Collection Details**



- All staff will be focused on the safe arrival and collection of children
- **Parents are advised that staff will not be able to engage in informal conversations, each day, at the gate, in line with our renewed safeguarding procedures.** Any accidents or behaviour incidents will be addressed via a phone call, an email or face to face conversation, via the school office before 8.40am or after 3.30pm. This ensures that parents have time to talk, properly and privately, and staff have time to listen and support.

Yr Gp	Start Time	Gate	End time	Gate
6	8.45am	Please choose the gate most convenient to you, to drop your children to. Gates will open at 8.40am - 8.50am. Please can we request that parents leave the site promptly, for security reasons.	3.15pm	<b>Cranleigh Close.</b> Each afternoon, <b>Y6 children</b> will be directed to waiting parents on the Cranleigh Close pathway in school. All Y1-5 siblings will be dismissed from the gate of the eldest child in all cases.
5	8.45am		3.15pm	<b>Top Pedestrian gate</b> Each afternoon, <b>Y5 children</b> will be escorted to the top pedestrian gate to waiting parents. All Y1-5 siblings will be dismissed from the gate of the eldest child in all cases.
4	8.45am		3.15pm	<b>Bottom car park gate</b> Each afternoon, <b>Y4 children</b> will be escorted to the bottom car park gate to waiting parents. All Y1-5 siblings will be dismissed from the gate of the eldest child in all cases.
3	8.50am		3.10pm	<b>Main school office entrance</b> Each afternoon, <b>Y3 children</b> will be escorted to the main office entrance to waiting parents. All siblings will be dismissed from the gate of the eldest child in all cases.
2	8.50am		3.10pm	<b>Bottom car park gate</b> Each afternoon, <b>Y2 children</b> will be escorted to the bottom car park gate to waiting parents. All Y1-5 siblings will be dismissed from the gate of the eldest child in all cases
1	8.50am		3.10pm	<b>Top Pedestrian gate</b> Each afternoon, <b>Y1 children</b> will be escorted to the top pedestrian gate to waiting parents. All Y1-5 siblings will be dismissed from the gate of the eldest child in all cases.
R	8.45am	Reception gate	3.10pm	<b>Reception Door.</b> Each afternoon, <b>Reception</b> will be escorted to the Reception fire door onto the school car park, to waiting parents.
N	8.55am	Nursery gate	3.05pm	<b>Nursery Door.</b> Each afternoon, <b>Nursery</b> will be escorted to the Nursery door, to waiting parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are politely reminded that they are responsible for the good behaviour and safety of their children at all times whilst on the site.</li> <li>• Parents are reminded that parking on the site is not allowed at any time, unless permission has been given in advance.</li> </ul>				

## Accessories and lunches

- 1) All children will need to be in school uniform, each day unless they have P.E.. Please find uniform details on the school website, under Useful Documents- Uniform-
- 2) 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 nor cycling shorts) and non-labelled black or red sweatshirts to keep warm. **Please note that other colours are not permitted to be worn on PE days.**

3) PE Footwear will be either black pumps or trainers, In the hall, children may be required to wear bare feet if the lesson is a gymnastics lesson.

4) 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.

5) Children can, once again, bring their lunchboxes into school. Thank you all for your patience. Please be reasonable about the size of these, Mums and Dads- space is limited. Please also ensure that they are well labelled and that children know to bring their wrappers etc. home with them, once more.

6) Children from R-Y4 will be given a book bag on their first day in school. This will provide space for their reading book, their homework (and their jumper, if needed, during hot weather). They will be required to bring this to and from school, each day.

7) Children in Y3 and Y4 can bring a pencil case with felt tips, if they wish to. These can be left in their locker for use in school, each week.

8) Children in Yr 5 and 6 will be permitted to bring a small school bag, in preparation for secondary school for their homework and a pencil case with felt tips etc.

9) All children will be issued with pens and pencils in school.

10) Homework will continue to be set via the *class pages* and reading books will be sent home on a set day and returned on a given day. (Please refer to class pages for details and look out for the planned **Welcome Meetings** in early September).

**11) 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 now that Lockdown has been lifted ( September 2021)?**

In line with Government guidance:

- 1) Class bubbles are no longer required, so children will be able to mix for assemblies, for lunches and for larger events, such as sports days and workshops.
- 2) All children will still 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 able to sit in groups, once more, aiding collaboration and peer support. Pens and pencils will be readily available in the centre of their tables, once more.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Children will be reminded to follow school rules and these will be regularly revised. **Behaviour Policy amendments still remain 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.**
- 6) Assembly times in the hall will take place, once more. Collective Worship will happen within each class and collectively.
- 7) PE will be scheduled to take place either outside or in the hall, at least once a week.
- 8) Lunches will be eaten by children, in the school hall, at staggered times, to make full use of the space available. Weather permitting, staff will then accompany children out, after lunch, for a 25-30 minute play. Children will be expected to follow rules and respect space but to enjoy each others' company, under staff jurisdiction, using the equipment that has been purchased, for break and lunch times.
- 9) Each class have been assigned access to running water, soap, paper towels and hand sanitiser. 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.**
- 10) All classrooms will continue to be cleaned down daily, with toilets being cleaned twice daily, minimally.
- 11) All classrooms will have access to tissues, to catch sneezes and coughs, and antibacterial wipes for additional cleaning as needed. Children will be prompted to use these and wash their hands afterwards.
- 12) All classes will continue to be well ventilated, with a fine balance between maintaining a safe environment and maintaining a warm environment, conducive to good learning.
- 13) 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.

- 14) Corridors will remain a safe, uncluttered zone. 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.
- 15) Signage and songs/posters will continue to support good hygiene.
- 16) We request that parents recognise the high number of parents on site at the beginning and end of each day, and therefore request that masks continue to be worn at these high volume times, to support staff members and children who are vulnerable, in the initial stages of the Lockdown easing.

## What will my child/ren learn?

1. School timetables and National Curriculum Requirements will continue. New Curriculum Pages will be rolled out for all parents to know more about the excellent teaching happening at SMA, and how children can be supported at home.
2. 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 July 2021 and to plan the necessary learning journeys to ensure that progress is rapid and evidenced before the next assessment point, in December 2021.
3. Our normal **induction programme** will be in place to address e-safety, RSE, Wellbeing, rules and expectations and safety Awareness-s in school and out of school. This will be reinforced in the first week, alongside full teaching. It will also be readdressed after the Christmas Holidays, running alongside normal teaching and again after Easter.
4. *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.
5. Where staff have 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.
6. After School Clubs will recommence.

## How can I help?

- Please look after children's log ins- you will need them again and again.
- Please be prompt. Children being late makes them anxious and starts the day badly for them.
- 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 collection and arrival times.
- Please respect staff, when they are in charge of 30 children. To be waylaid, by a parent is awkward and puts children at risk and means other parents have to wait. Please pop into the office, phone, email or contact, via class pages. **We are more than happy to talk- when it is safe to do so.**
- Meetings that are needed can still be via Microsoft Teams, at times. Regular communication home has been factored into the working day for children this term. This will continue across the Autumn term also.
- Please continue to read all emails and information thoroughly, to avoid unnecessary phone calls. The website also serves as a reminder.

Many thanks

## Additional information

**Lockdown has taught us to really re evaluate what are our priorities and how we interact with each other. We ask that you continue to work with us, to overcome all difficulties and anxieties that we meet, along the SMA school journey, with professional courtesy and with trust. Please do not be offended if you are:**

- 1) **Asked to collect your child who appears to be unwell**
- 2) **Asked to get your child tested for CoVid**
- 3) **Asked to discuss a behaviour concern**
- 4) **On your phone on site and asked to put your phone away**
- 5) **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.**
- 6) **Speaking disrespectfully to staff and reminded about mutual respect**
- 7) **Arriving consistently late and asked to address this**

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

## Wraparound care

The St Mary of the Angels Wraparound Provision (Breakfast and After School Club) will be open, once more, from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, for those children who have accessed the gateway and booked a place.

Please note the following summary points, with regard to provision:

### Breakfast Club will open at 7.30am.

- Parents are reminded to access the club, via the Nursery gate, where a member of staff will be available to sign the children in, at the following times: 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, KS1 children will be escorted to their classes by staff; Ks2 children will make their own way safely to class
- In the event of your child being unwell we will need you to take them home at your first available opportunity

### Afterschool Club will operate each evening between 3.15-5.15pm, currently.

- 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

We will continue to follow DfE guidelines and work in well ventilated spaces, using the hall, once again, wherever possible. A mini and a main club will resume: Mini for N-Y1; Main for Y2-6. These will be staffed by familiar staff members with appropriate safe ratios..

## And Finally...

16 months after Lockdown began, we have realised that 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 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking, for the children and staff here at St Mary's. Hence, the detailed provision letter here, to assist you in knowing what will happen in September, once more.

Thank you all for your great support, ready smiles, despite the masks, and your flexibility in maintaining a great environment for your children and the staff.

The final newsletter of the academic year will follow tomorrow.

Enjoy your evening... I believe the sun is on its way again, for a short while at least!

Regards  
Claire O'Hara

