

Autumn Term 2020 Plans for Whole School Return



Attendance

Now that guidance and circumstances have changed, it is vital for children to return to school in September to attempt to minimise the longer-term impact of the partial closure on children's education and well-being. Missing out on more time in school could result in children falling further behind.

In line with guidance, from September, attendance at school will be mandatory and the usual rules on school attendance will apply. The rationale behind St Mary's following the guidance is as follows:

- The risk to children becoming severely ill from Covid-19 is very low and there are negative impacts on health by being out of school.
- The benefits of being back in school far outweigh the potential risk of infection and the school will continue to take necessary steps to reduce risk further.
- As outlined below, we will minimise contact between bubbles to reduce the risk of transmission.
- We have a clear process that we will follow in the event of someone developing coronavirus symptoms. See 'Coronavirus symptoms/illness' for details.
- We have thoroughly reviewed our risk assessments and amended our daily practices and routines.

Subject to the continued decline in the infection rate, from 1st August those who remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members that are shielding. Whilst there will be undoubted and understandable concern from those who fall in to this category, we must reiterate that all children of statutory school age are required to attend school.

The School Day

Similar to the return of children from June, we have staggered our school start and finish times to minimise crowding at key points of the day. Where possible, we have tried to consider the logistical difficulties of getting between sites for multiple drop-offs and pick-ups. Please look at the times below in order to plan for your child/ren's return in September:

Infant Site			
Class	Entry and Exit Point	Drop-Off Time	Pick-up Time
R - Blackbirds	Main Gate	8:40	3:10
R - Doves	Arragon Road	8:40	3:10
R - Robins	Arragon Road	8:40	3:10
Year 1 - Kingfishers	Main Gate	8:30	3:00
Year 1 - Nightingales	Arragon Road	8:30	3:00
Year 1 - Puffins	Main Gate	8:30	3:00

Middle Site			
Class	Entry and Exit Point	Drop-Off Time	Pick-up Time
Year 2 - Junipers	Main Gate	8:45	3:15
Year 2 - Oaks	Side Alley Gate	8:45	3:15
Year 2 - Willows	Main Gate	8:45	3:15
Year 3 - Maples	Side Alley Gate	8:55	3:25
Year 3 - Poplars	Main Gate	8:55	3:25
Year 3 - Sycamores	Main Gate	8:55	3:25

Junior Site			
<i>Orleans Park Secondary School are also having staggered arrival and departure times and will be using the pedestrian gate off Richmond Road. Please be mindful of their presence.</i>			
Class	Entry and Exit Point	Drop-Off Time	Pick-up Time
Year 4	Entering the main gate and lining up in the Aviary	8:50	3:20
		8:50	3:20
		8:50	3:20
Year 5	Entering the main gate and lining up in the Aviary	9:00	3:30
		9:00	3:30
		9:00	3:30
Year 6	Entering the main gate and lining up in the Aviary	8:40	3:10
		8:40	3:10
		8:40	3:10
		8:40	3:10

- Please ensure we have the most up to date contact details for you and provide the details of at least two other adults who we can contact at short notice.
- Staff will be present to help your child/ren line up and enter in the correct place.
- Please **be on time**. We recognise that these times may cause conflict for some parents with children on multiple sites and apologise for that; unfortunately, it is impossible to meet everyone's circumstances in this situation with our three sites. If you are late at drop-off, do not worry; a member of staff will escort your child in to their class safely – just inform a member of staff on the gate. If you are delayed at pick-up time, your child will remain with their class teacher until you arrive; if they are not waiting by the gate, please press the buzzer and the office will ensure they are brought out to you. If you anticipate being delayed regularly, please let us know in advance at info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk so we are aware.
- Contact with staff will not be face to face. Please continue to use phone calls or emails to your child's site office addresses (infantsite@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk, middlesite@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk and info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk for the junior site).
- Please avoid congregating at the school gates with other parents/carers and respect social distancing guidance.
- **Parents and carers are not allowed on site.**

Other important details:

- Staff and children are to remove face coverings once they arrive at school (Government guidance).
- Classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day and frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Handwashing is built in to the school day, with soap and hand sanitiser available in classes (we would be grateful for any donations you are able to make).
- Children must bring in a pencil case (excluding Reception children), as we aim to reduce the use of shared resources wherever possible. Your child's pencil case should include the following items only: pencil, ruler, pencil sharpener, selection of coloured **pencils** and glue stick (those using handwriting pens will be given one by their teacher). Pencil cases should then remain in school and not be taken home.
- Children should bring in school bags, as previously.
- All children **must** bring in a named water bottle.
- Scooters and bicycles must be taken home for children in Reception and Year 1; this is because of the additional staffing needed to support children to enter safely and smoothly and children of these ages are not usually able to independently put them away – previously, parents/carers had often helped with this but are not currently allowed on site. Other year groups may keep them in school but the children will be responsible for storing and collecting them.
- PE Kit will be worn to school on PE days as previously (days and timetables will be shared early in September). Most PE will be outside; consequently, all children will be required to have the school's warm PE overtop and navy blue track suit bottoms. Please place your order for these early enough that you have them by September. (Reception children do not come to school in PE kit but instead should bring it in a named bag.)
- All children will be required to wear school shoes and the correct school uniform for the new term. Please see the website for uniform details: <https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/School-uniformpolicy-2018.pdf>
- Junior site children will eat a packed lunch in their classroom in the first half term. With 10 classes on the Junior site, and only being able to have five classes outside at the same time to maintain bubbles, we are unable at this stage to staff children in classrooms, outside and the lunch hall all at the same time. We will review this for the second half term of autumn. Our caterers will maintain the same high nutritional and procurement standards. Parents should let us know if they intend to send in a packed lunch by emailing Mrs Maxted at dmaxted@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk. Infant and Middle sites will have cooked school lunches. Please remind your child that they must not share food at any time.
- Class bubbles, of up to 30 children, will be maintained to reduce the potential for germs being spread. As a result, children will not 'mix' with children from other classes at school. Teachers and support staff may work in multiple bubbles in line with guidance.
- Play and lunch times will be staggered and play areas will be zoned to enable bubbles not to mix. Each bubble will have their own play resources provided by school.
- Classrooms will be arranged, in most cases, so that desks are forward facing – rather than in groups – as detailed in Government guidance so that children are not breathing directly towards one another.

The Curriculum

- The initial weeks of schooling will be a time for settling the children in and getting them used to the routines of school once again.
- There will be a strong emphasis on PSHE, mental health and well-being
- We will be teaching a broad and balanced curriculum to all of our children which will evolve in response to the children's needs and starting points within each class. The curriculum will develop over the term, ensuring the children receive as much of it as we can practically and safely deliver, taking into account their age and development and using best endeavours.
- There will, initially, be no additional group activities or clubs. We will keep you informed of any changes to this.

Coronavirus symptoms/ illness

- If your child is unwell in any way they should remain at home and you must contact the school office by 8.00am either by phone or via ParentMail. You **must** include the reasons for their absence.
- If your child has any one of the Covid-19 symptoms – high temperature, a new, continuous cough, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste etc, they **MUST** remain at home and self-isolate for 7 days. As above, you must contact the school office by 8.00am, or as soon as possible, on the first day, outlining their symptoms.
- If any member of your household has any of the Covid-19 symptoms, you must contact the school office immediately to inform us, and your child must self-isolate for 14 days.
- If either your child or any of your household shows any Covid-19 symptoms you must book a test at your nearest testing station and inform the school immediately.
- If a child or staff member within a bubble becomes unwell with symptoms of Covid-19, they will be sent home immediately to self-isolate; they should complete a Coronavirus test, if eligible, and advise the school of the result as soon as it is available, in order that the spread of the virus can be limited.
- In the event of a positive test result being received, the rest of that bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Please consult the current Government guidance for other household members.
- Use of available testing and swift notification to the school will ensure rapid action to protect all children and staff at St Mary's.

We will continue to monitor the situation alongside all of the latest Government briefings, Local Authority and Diocesan guidance and will write to you with any changes to the information given above. We will also update our website so please check <https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/covid-measures/> for any developments.

I hope you can appreciate that we are still in a very 'fluid' situation and all risk assessments and information will be updated as often as needed in order to ensure the continued health, safety and well-being of all of our school community which remains at the heart of every decision we make.