

St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Rectory Gardens, London N8 7QN Tel: 020 8340 4898 E-mail: office@stmarysn8.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Calvin Henry



27th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. I sincerely hope that you and your children had a restful and fun-filled summer holiday and that you are now looking forward to everything wonderful that a new school year will bring. We look forward to seeing the **children return to school on Thursday 2nd September**.

You will no doubt have learned that from 16th August and as a result of moving to Step 4 of the Covid Roadmap, the government has determined that the Covid restrictions to which we have been bound by for so long are to be lifted. Following this, the Department for Education published its guidance for schools to follow.

So, what does this mean for St Mary's from 2nd September?

School start and finish times

At the beginning and end of the school day, timings will revert to what they were pre-pandemic outbreak. See the table below.

Church Lane

Year	Start time	Entrance	Home Time
Nursery	9.00am	Nursery Gate	12.00pm
Reception – Year 2	9.00am	Church Pathway	3.30pm

At the end of the school day, children will continue to be collected from their classroom via the external classroom doors.

Rectory Gardens

Year	Start time	Entrance	Home Time
3	8.45am	Breakfast/After School Club	3.15pm
4	8.45am	Main	3.15pm
5	8.30am	Main	3.15pm
6	8.30am	Main	3.15pm

At the end of the school day, children in Years 3 & 4 will be collected from the top part of the playground nearest the school and children in Years 5 & 6 (unless going home alone), will be collected from the bottom part of the playground.

At Church Lane, we will revert to only using the main Church Pathway gate for entering and exiting the school as well as the nursery entrance as applicable. At Rectory Gardens, we will once again use the main gate next to the garden allotment area for both entrance and exits. This means that one-way systems will cease to operate. Admittance to the school site outside the start and end of day timings will be via the main school office.

Face coverings

When on the school site in outdoor areas, parents will no longer be required to wear facemasks. However, if inside the school building, we respectfully request that parents continue to wear a face covering. This will be reviewed at the end of the first half term.

Class/Year Group Bubbles

Bubble groups will also cease to exist. This means that children will be able to move more freely around school and interact with children in other year groups throughout the school day. However, some staggering of key activities will continue to help support the smooth running of the school day.

Parents on site

We welcome parents back onto the school site, including in the school building. However, this will initially be by mutual appointment only or if you need to visit the school office. We are hopeful that our full 'Open-Door Policy' can once again resume later in the term and will be reviewed at half term. We will also be restarting class assemblies later in the term. You will be notified about the date of this for your child's class by your child's class teacher within the next couple of weeks.

School clubs

Breakfast and After School Clubs will continue across both sites and without the requirement for children to be in bubble groups. The Breakfast Club timings will remain as they currently are for both sites. However, After School Club provision at Church Lane will revert to ending at 5:45pm and at Rectory Gardens, it will end at 6pm. I urge you to please be on time to pick up your children and avoid being fined. Do understand that since we have to pay staff for any overtime incurred as a result of lateness, this additional cost to school is partly offset by any such fine. For all other school clubs, we will be in touch with you within the next week or so to let you know what will be available and from when.

Water bottles and snacks

The school water fountains will be switched back on and can once again be used. However, children can continue to bring in their own water bottles daily. As the mornings are relatively long, children are encouraged to bring into school a piece of fruit that they can eat at playtime. Children at Church Lane will continue to benefit from the fruit scheme.

PE

On days when it is your child's PE, children in most year groups will continue to be able to come to school wearing their PE kits which need to be in their house colours. You will be notified by your child's class teacher when this will be.

School Uniform

Please can you make sure that your child wears the correct school uniform every day. This also includes the wearing of black only shoes or trainers. Children are not to wear other multi-coloured shoes or trainers to school.

Music

We are particularly pleased that full music provision, including singing can start once again. However when doing so, we will ensure that lessons and singing takes place in well ventilated spaces.

As you can see, we will once again be back to as normal a routine as possible at St Mary's. However the removal of the restrictions as outlined means that the risk of rising infection rates will increase. We have therefore updated our school Risk Assessment to reflect this and we have also written an Outbreak Management Plan in the event of increased rates of Covid infection in our school or local community. This plan outlines some of the measures that would need to be reintroduced depending on the severity of a Covid outbreak. I have attached a parent friendly summary version of this - see attached.

We will also continue to maintain good hygiene and ventilation practices in school to reduce the risk of any infections spreading. This includes regular washing and sanitising of hands, deep cleaning of both school sites and ensuring that rooms are consistently well-ventilated.

Whilst the vast majority of us welcome the easing of restrictions and a return to what school should be, we are mindful that some of you will be feeling anxious about the easing of the restrictions. If you would therefore like to talk to me or any other member of school staff about what is outlined in this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us via the school office.

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In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming you and your children back at school next week Thursday 2nd September.

Do have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

With very best regards,

Calvin Henry.

Calvin Henry
Headteacher