



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Fowler Road, Islington, London N1 2EP

Tel: 020 7359 1870 Email: school@stmarys.islington.sch.uk

www.stmarys.islington.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss Genevieve Prayag



Wider Re-opening Update

Thursday 25th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Re; Phased return to school

As you know, this was our first week with eligible year group bubbles. It goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. SLT and staff have monitored and reviewed throughout the week and have planned our next steps. We are pleased to share the next stage of re-opening with parents.

Update on Bubbles

Year 6 Bubble

The year six children did really well, they were on time and followed the new rules well.

From next week, year six children will be offered an additional day at school. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 2.45pm at the Fowler road gate. Please remember that children must have their own water bottle with them.

If any other year 6 parents wish for their child to attend, please ensure you have contacted the office or sent an email to the parent support email address so that your child's name can be added to the waiting list.

Year 1 Bubble

We were so impressed at how quickly year one children settled into a very different looking classroom. They were brilliant at washing their hands! Parents, thank you for remembering your social distancing at the gate.

From next week, year one children will be offered an additional day at school. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am - 2.45pm at the Shillingford street gate. Please remember that children must have their own water bottle with them, it's helpful if the younger children have their name on it.

If any other year 1 parents wish for their child to attend, please ensure you have contacted the office or sent an email to the parent support email address so that your child's name can be added to the waiting list.

Reception Bubble

The children did really well lining up using the footprints on the ground. They enjoyed lots of singing, particularly the hand washing song. They had lunch at their tables in their classroom, which was very different for them.

From next week, reception children will be offered an additional day at school. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am - 3pm at the Shillingford street gate. Please remember that children must have their own water bottle with them, it's helpful if the younger children have their name on it.



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If any other reception parents wish for their child to attend, please ensure you have contacted the office or sent an email to the parent support email address so that your child's name can be added to the waiting list.

Keyworker and Vulnerable Group Bubble

The children are settled well into routines and enjoyed their learning packs and welcoming new children.

From next week, things will remain the same.

If you believe you are a critical keyworker, please ensure you have contacted the office or sent an email to the parent support email address so that your child's name can be added to the waiting list.

Some helpful points for all;

- If your child is going to be absent, please do contact the office. If your child is persistently absent or late we will have to review your child's place.
- It is important that you are on time, as there are staggered start and end times as a safety measure for us all.
- For those children who attended school this week, you took home your learning pack to finish. This does not need to be returned to school as you will have a new one on Monday.
- Please remember to tell the teacher if your child needs a school packed lunch.
- Please remember to send your child with a bottle of water.
- If it is hot, you will need to put sun cream on your child before school. Make sure they have a hat.

Update on Waiting Lists

Many thanks for your patience as the school settled the first set of bubbles and reviewed how they worked. We are pleased to share that this week we will be contacting families who are currently on the waiting lists for all bubbles.

We are now planning to welcome back one more bubble, a mixed Reception/Year 1 bubble from **Tuesday 30th June.**

The school day for this bubble will be **9.30am to 3.00pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.** You must use the **Fowler road entrance**, using the footprints to help you and your child to keep the social distance. Your child will be in a small bubble of up to **10** children. This bubble will be overseen by Miss Mann and Miss Coates. It will be led by Miss Austra Gillespie, supported by Miss Geraldine.

This new bubble will be placed in the year two classroom with the outside space (see photos below). The classroom has sinks and soap for hand washing and sanitiser in the classroom.

Pupils should wear their own clothes (no uniform), which must be clean on each day to school. They will need a water bottle marked with their name.



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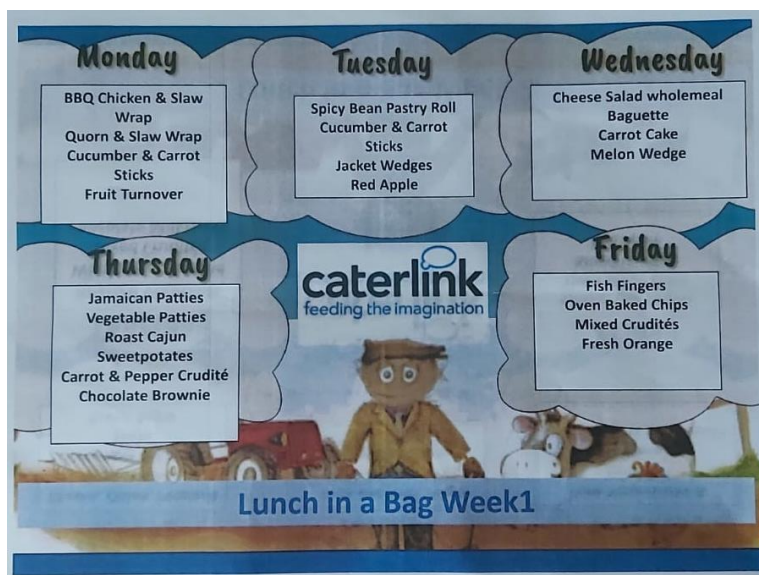
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Wider Re-opening Update



Pupils will be given a school packed lunch at lunchtime which they will eat at their tables. If you wish your child to bring in their own packed lunch, they can. If you wish to bring a snack at break time you can. This is an example of some school packed lunch items.



We know that, unlike older children and adults, children in the early years **cannot** be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff, which is why we have put in place protective measures which will allow us to open as safely as possible.



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Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for re-opening include:

- **Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the school. That includes children and staff who work here.**
- Keeping our children in small groups with consistent staffing and having no contact with other groups 'bubbles' around the school.
- Staggered start and end times for the school day. It is important that families are on time as this will impact the safety timetable which we have in place. If you are late, it is unlikely that your child will be able to attend for the day.
- Changing the layout of the classroom to encourage social distancing and removed soft furnishings.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the school.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children at the Fowler road gate and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to the school, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing, and has been approved by the school.

What can parents and carers do to help?

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above concerning arrival and departure and not bringing toys to the setting.

- Ensure the school has two up to date contact telephone numbers for adults who are able to collect your child from school. If your child displays symptoms, they will be isolated and supervised by an adult. We will contact you on the numbers provided for immediate collection. We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a test result.



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- Help your child to wash their hands <https://cdn-busybees.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/downloads/handWashingSongActivity.pdf>
- Complete the two metre space challenge <https://cdn-busybees.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/downloads/twoMetreActivity.pdf>
- Read the local authority information www.stmarys.islington.sch.uk/children-returning-to-primary-school-la-information/

The priorities at this time are to help the children to adapt to their new routines and supporting children to settle back into the classroom. This means continuing to provide an environment that invites learning across all 7 areas as far as is practicable during this time. We will be continuing to support their early language and communication skills. Exercise and gross motor activities will be encouraged.

Update on Home Learning

Thank you to all of the parents and carers supporting their children with home learning. Please know that we continue to be committed to your child's learning.

Some of you have chosen online and some with printed packs (available Thursday 1-3pm from the Fowler road gate). The main content of the learning in school, online and the printed packs will be taken from the same Islington recommended resource. Please complete the home learning activities at a pace that is suitable for you and your child. There is no pressure from school to complete all of it. This is to support consistency for all children. Teachers will provide support through the Google Classroom and Class Dojo or telephone calls to those not online. They are unable to contact you virtually.

The school is providing the home learning resources however the home learning is optional. It is for parents to decide how much and how often it is completed to suit you and your family circumstances. Teachers will provide ongoing feedback to support you in this.

Update on Magic Breakfast

The school continue to support families with breakfast items. They are available on a Thursday from 1-3pm at the Fowler road gate.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made for the next phase. The arrangements will be reviewed continually in line with government guidance.

Best wishes,

Genevieve Prayag, Laura Mayende, Holly Britton and Kirsty Oliver
School Senior Leaders