



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



Year Reception Provision

Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Reception Parents,

Re; Phased Reception return to school starting Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Thank you for your responses and feedback regarding a wider reopening for reception children.

We have considered your feedback, along with government guidance and are now in a position to share the arrangements for reception.

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children from 20th March. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent.

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We have been working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating.

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.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening 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



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soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.

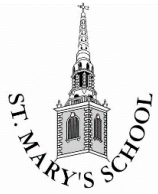
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the school.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and 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 Shillingford street 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.
- 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>

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.



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A bubble is just a small group of people who will spend their time together at school.

You can think of it as a team!



It will include some of your friends and one or two grown ups you will already know from school.

You might not have all of your friends in your bubble, but you will have some of them.

When you arrive at school we will say goodbye to all of the grown ups at the gate.

Then we will lock the gate to make sure we are all safe.



Then we will go into school together.

Your bubble will have some space inside and some space outside. It will be all yours.

None of the children in the other bubbles will come into your bubble space, and you won't go into their bubble space.



Even though we won't be spending time with the children in other bubbles, if we see them we can wave and shout 'hello'!

We will hang up our coats and wash our hands for 20 seconds.
Can you remember how to wash your hands?





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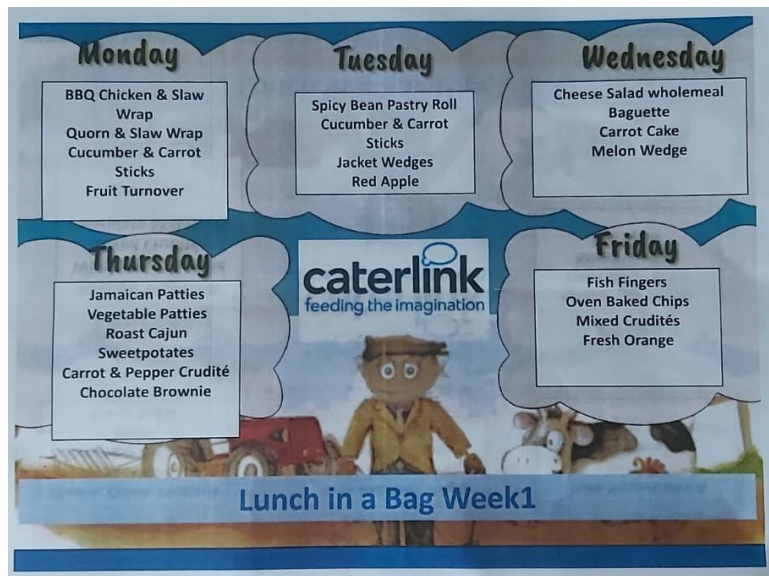
We are now planning to welcome back Year Reception pupils at St Mary's on **Tuesday 23rd June.**

The school day will be **9.30am to 3.00pm, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.** Your child will be in a small bubble of up to **10** children led by Miss Mann.

We have sinks and soap for hand washing in every class. We have sanitiser stations in our classroom.

Pupils should wear their own clothes (no uniform), clean on each day to school and bring:

- a water bottle marked with their name.
- Pupils will be given a school packed lunch at lunchtime. 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.



What do I need to do now?

1. If you answered YES, you would like your child to attend (in the Parent Survey)

Your child's place will be considered as spaces are limited and children wishing to return will be prioritised on need.

Parents will be sent a Parent Confirmation Form via text/Google Forms (this will be sent to you separately) which parents need to complete and agree to.



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You must return your Parent Confirmation Form by **Friday 19th June 2020** to secure your place.

You will be sent a text confirming if you are on the waiting list.

- 2. If you answered NO, then you will need to confirm the Home learning route for your child.**

You can choose online ClassDojo or collected printed packs each week from the school. Parents will be sent a Home Learning Form via text.

- 3. If you have changed your mind and wish for your child to return.**

Please email the school parent email so we can add your child's name to the waiting list.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from 23rd June. The arrangements will be reviewed continually. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back and hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure our school is ready to open.

Best wishes,

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