



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



Friday 4th September 2020

Welcome back to St Mary's School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to St Mary's and the full return as we start the new school year. We hope over the summer that you have all kept well and are in good health.

We are looking forward to welcoming back our children to school. We understand for some families this is a welcomed return to school, and for others understandably there may be some anxieties with regards to the pandemic. We sent a link out to families inviting you to attend a 'Back to school' panel and question webinar with Islington, which was on Tuesday. For those who attended, we hope you found it helpful. St Mary's has implemented adjustments and changes to follow government and local guidance as we welcome back all of our children to school next week. We sent letters to all families in July sharing the changes to the school day, which we hope has given you time to organise and prepare for the new arrangements for the start and end times of the school day.

Over the summer holiday lots of works and preparations have taken place - a huge thank you to our premises & cleaning team and our school business manager. During the staff INSETs this week we have gone through the St Mary's risk assessments and procedures with the protective measures in place. We finalised our whole school's Happy Classrooms project as we welcome our children back to school. Staff received trauma informed awareness training, which builds on our school vision and approach to supporting children's and staff wellbeing. We also received safeguarding updates, and reviewed inclusion and medical provision. Our school team are all working hard preparing for the new school year and very much look forward to seeing their classes next week.

These continue to be challenging times for all as we work through the pandemic. We ask for your continued support and partnership as we all work together to support our children as they return to school and to help them settle into their new returns and their learning.

Enclosed with this letter is a reminder of the school information sent in July in the form of questions and answers. Also we have some short video clips and photos on the school website <https://www.stmarys.islington.sch.uk/> and on our Twitter page @StMarysN1 to give you an idea of what to expect next week. We hope you find this helpful.

Once again, we look forward to welcoming our children back to school and value your support and partnership with this.

Yours sincerely,

Genevieve Prayag

Headteacher



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September return to school information for parents and carers

Who will be returning to school?

In line with government expectations, every child on roll at St Mary's school is expected to return to school from September. Government states this will be mandatory.

Children in **Year 1 to Year 6** start back at school on **Monday 7th September**. For our Reception families, you were sent a letter sharing with you your start dates and timings for your Reception child's phased 'induction' to St Mary's school.

When will my child start and finish school, and at which school gate?

As we have so many families at St Mary's, we have introduced a sibling system to allow for smooth and safe departure from school.

Group A: If you have **one child attending the school**, then you are 'group A', you will need to drop your child from 8.40am - 9am at the correct gates for their year group and then collect your child from the same gate that you dropped them off at for **3.10pm**.

Group B: If you have **more than one child attending the school**, then they are considered as a sibling group and are 'group B'. You will need to be aware that in the morning, you will have to drop your children from 8.40am - 9am at the correct gates for their year group and then collect all of your children from one gate (the Fowler road gate) at the same time at 3.20pm.

St Mary's is introducing a 'soft start' to the school day to allow time for children in **years 1-6** to promptly enter the school grounds and to help reduce the number of people on the pavements. **The soft start timing is 8.40am - 9am**. This means that children in group A and B, can be dropped off to their correct gate anytime from 8.40am - 9am. When children arrive at their allocated school gate, they will be directed by school leaders to enter the school building to their classroom where their teacher will be. In line with the school risk assessment and guidance from the local authority, families will not be able to enter the school premises at the start or end of the school day. After your child (ren) enters the school, parents/carers must leave to help avoid too many people being together in one place at a time on the pavement.



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Start and End Times

Please keep away from the school gate and keep to social distancing. Thank you.

Reception

Start of Day

Group A & B: 9:00am at Shillingford Street Gate

End of Day

Group A: 3.10pm at Shillingford Street Gate

Group B: 3.20pm at Fowler Road Gate

Year 1 and Year 2

Start of Day

Group A & B: 8.40am - 9:00am at Shillingford Street Gate

End of Day

Group A: 3.10pm at Shillingford Street Gate

Group B: 3.20pm at Fowler Road Gate

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Start of Day

Group A & B: 8.40am - 9:00am at Fowler Road Gate

End of Day

Group A: 3.10pm at Fowler Road Gate

Group B: 3.20pm at Fowler Road Gate

Can I drive my vehicle on Fowler Road?

We have been notified by Islington that Fowler Road has become part of the School Streets Programme. This will mean that unless you have an exemption you will not be able to drive up Fowler Road on Monday-Friday during term time (8:30am-9:15am and 3:15pm-4pm). Please see the website for more information.

How many adults can bring/collect my child?

To support social distancing please only have **one adult per family** to bring/collect from school. An electronic secure collection form was sent to all families to inform us of your arrangements. **Year 5 and Year 6** families also have a 'walking home independently' section to their form.

Please complete and send this back to the school via Google Forms.

Thank you



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Can my child bring their bikes/scooters to school?

All families are being encouraged to safely walk, cycle or scoot to school. Over the summer, new bike and scooter bays were installed, including a scooter bay in Reception. Bikes/scooters may be left in the bays on arrival at school and collected at the end of the school day once their teacher/support staff has seen their parent. Children must walk their bike/scooter to/from the school gate.



Pictures of the bike KS1/KS2 bike and scooter bay.

What does my child need to bring?

- School bag
- Water bottle and fruit snack (the fruit snack must in a labelled bag/box). Please be aware that with the protective measures, schools cannot use water fountains.
- Packed lunch (if you do not opt for the school's packed lunch)

Children must not bring in toys from home. Children will not need to bring in a pencil case as school will provide stationery for each child which only they will use.

Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Yes. Children must be in full school uniform, including our new Reception children.

Is the school still using the 'bubbles'?

Yes. Children will be in a class 'bubble'. Some children will have opportunity to work with staff in small group 'bubbles' during the week.

Will children have playtimes?

Yes. Each class bubble has an allocated area of the playground to use so they can keep within their bubble. Contact sports will not be allowed or the use of the mound with the protective measures in place. Each class bubble has provision to some playtime equipment which will be cleaned regularly.



Zoned KS2 playground



Zoned KS1 playground



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What will my child have for their morning snack and lunch?

For the morning snack, you may send your child with a piece a fruit for them to eat.

For the first half of the Autumn term, all children will be provided with a Caterlink 'lunch in a bag'. If you wish to prepare a home packed lunch for your child, you may do so however please remember no nuts are allowed. Children will stay in the classroom in their bubble whilst they eat their lunch. At this time the children will not be eating their lunch in the school hall. We will review this at the end of the first half term and inform parents and children of changes.

If you decide to send your child in with a packed lunch made at home, please remember it must have

- A main dish (sandwich, bagel, wrap, pasta)
- Add some fruit or salad (apple, cherry tomatoes, carrot sticks)
- Add a little something else for a treat (rice cakes, popcorn, current bun, pot of jelly)
- Please ensure your child has a bottle of water (no juice or fizzy drinks)

For further information on healthy packed lunches and recipes, please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

What will my child learn?

The school will implement a recovery curriculum to support children as they return to school. This will start with a Happy Classroom topic to support children and families. Activities are set up to build children's confidence, friendships, settling into new routines and supporting children to 'learn to learn' at school again. Circle time activities will include PSHE sessions. Our Sports Coach will also be supporting children with staff. Teachers will work in partnership with families to work together as we help children settle into their school routines. Children will have additional time outside to reinforce turn taking and social skills. Each class will also spend time talking about how they are feeling and thinking about how we can look ahead. Activities during the Happy Classroom topics at the start of September will include maths and English building on what children would have experience with.



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How will levels of hygiene be maintained?

- On entering the school grounds in the morning, children will apply hand sanitiser from their gel hand sanitiser station.
- Children will have their own pack in their trays (pencils, rubber etc.)
- Handwashing and sanitizing will be built into the daily timetable
- Tissues and bins with lids are provided in every classroom.
- Daily cleaning is in place and regular cleaning of 'bubble' resources



Who is my child's teacher and teaching assistant next year?

Reception: Miss Mann and Miss Michelle

Year 1: Miss Cianter and Miss Sarah

Year 2: Miss Coates and Miss Geraldine

Year 3: Mr Simes and Mr Benjamin

Year 4: Mr McLaughlin and Miss Teresa

Year 5: Mr Cota and Miss Kelly

Year 6: Ms Rocque and Mr Michael

How will I contact my teacher?

Parents/carers will not be permitted on site. If you wish to talk with your child's class teacher, please call the school office.

Will there be breakfast club or after school clubs when we return?

Unfortunately, we cannot provide a breakfast club or afterschool club. This will be reviewed and parents notified of any changes.

Will my child/children be going off-site for trips?

Children may walk around the local area, but we will not be using public transport or taking children into closed spaces, such as museums whilst this guidance is in place.

How long will this continue?

The Government guidance issued on 2nd July has no 'end date'. School will respond to local and government directions as and when informed to do so. We will continue to review procedures and will update you with any changes.