



29th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You will have seen the recent announcement, by the Prime Minister, regarding the planned return to schools for children in some primary year groups from Monday June 1st. We are pleased to say we can confirm we are opening from Monday June 1st for some year groups. Parents and carers, whose children are returning, have already been contacted with some details of the phased return; this letter outlines a few questions that parents and carers may still have.

Parents and carers of children in the eligible year groups, who stated their children **were not returning** to school from the 1st June, can still change their mind. However, you have to appreciate that we need notice in order to make any changes needed. School ask that you give us 2 weeks' notice if you change your mind. Ring school and your request will be noted and you will be informed accordingly. Where there are spaces, we will endeavour to get your child back as soon as possible, but this may not always be the case without re-organisation of groups and teaching spaces. It is for this reason we ask for a notice period. We also ask for your patience.

Where and when do I drop my child off? You will have had this information sent in an email or via text message.

Why is where my child needs to be dropped off and collected different and why are the school start times and finishing times different for different children? Each new small teaching group may have a different drop off and pick up place and different times due to us limiting the number of parents and carers who can come onto the site at one time. We are staggering times and places in order to allow parents and carers (and their children) to socially distance from other groups. Please ensure you stick to the times given.

What if my child is upset when I drop them off at school? All staff have been briefed on how to help with separation anxiety at the point of drop off.

What if I need to speak to the office? Parents and carers will be advised not to enter school. We encourage parents and carers to ring with any queries.

Are there any restrictions on who can drop off and collect children? Only 1 adult can drop off and collect children. Please ensure social distance recommendations are adhered to. The original system applies for the

collection of children: it has to be someone on the child's collection list. If it is not someone on their list, parents and carers will receive a phone call to confirm.

What will my child be learning? Childcare that was offered to key workers' children and vulnerable children during school closure will cease and learning will commence. However, lots of emphasis will initially be put on child well-being and ensuring they are, once again, school-ready. English, maths and theme will be planned, as well as physical activity and outside learning.

What if my child is not attending school? Staff will continue to add home learning to Teams and Facebook. We encourage parents and carers, whose children are staying at home, to engage with this learning. It will be a replication of what children in school are learning, as much as possible. This is to ensure fairness and consistency of the level of education the children are receiving.

Will my child have their usual teacher? Due to having more teaching groups with fewer children, your child is unlikely to have their usual teacher. However, we are one big family at St. Mark's so your child is likely to have seen the member of staff they are now working with around school before.

What hand washing and hygiene measures are in place? As always, children will have access to soap and water and they will be encouraged to hand wash regularly. Teaching spaces also have access to hand sanitiser. This will only be used where hand washing cannot be accessed.

Adults in the teaching spaces have access to cleaning spray. This will be used on tables and touch points like handles, where necessary.

School will be cleaned as normal at the end of each day.

School will be deep cleaned on a Wednesday.

How will staff encourage social distancing of children? Children will be expected to go straight to their allocated table on arrival into their teaching space. They will indicate to the adult, by raising their hand, should they need help. We understand social distancing may be more difficult for younger children. Younger children will be encouraged by their adult, to keep a distance between them and their peers.

Will staff adhere to social distancing? Yes, with other adults. Best endeavours with the children in their care.

What if my child needs First Aid? Each teaching group has a staff member who can administer First Aid. Each teaching group contains a First Aid kit. PPE will be worn by staff who have to administer any First Aid. The PPE will be a plastic apron, gloves and a mask.

What are the arrangements for children being able to go to the toilet? Each teaching group has a designated time to go to the toilet and children will be encouraged to go then. Where children need to go and it is not their allocated slot, an adult will check the toilet is free first. Posters remind children that only one person is

What happens at break time and lunchtime? Teaching groups are allocated an outside break time and a slot at lunchtime also. Children will eat their lunch in their classroom. The tables will be cleaned before and after lunch.

Can my child have a school lunch? Reception and Y1 children (and any key worker or vulnerable child attending from Y2) can have a Free School Meal. This will be a cold sandwich option only. You need to let school know if you require a lunch ordering by ringing the office. Any key worker or vulnerable child attending from other year groups can order a school lunch (cold option only). This can be paid for on ParentPay. Alternatively, you can send your child in with their own packed lunch.

Does my child have to wear uniform? Yes please. We ask them to wear a clean uniform each day they attend. If parents and carers are unable to provide this, sensible own clothes can be worn, again, clean clothes to be worn daily. Please ring school to let us know if your child will not be wearing uniform.

What do I need to send my child in with each day? Water bottle. Lunch (if you are providing a packed lunch). These will be returned home daily and we expect you to clean them before sending them back in. If the weather continues to be warm, apply sun cream before school and provide a hat. Children **DO NOT** need: P.E kit, reading book, reading diary or a school bag. School will provide children with what they need beyond their lunch (if you are not providing theirs) and water bottle.

Many thanks.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Mrs Hindson (Head of School).

Mrs Hall (CEO).