



Welcome Back Everyone

Welcome back to our new normal. School reopens for children on Tuesday 8th September and we are looking forward to seeing you all. I hope that you have all made some wonderful memories with your families over the holiday period.

Our New Normal!

Please re-read the document related to the new protocols, because there are many changes. We have many systems in place to make our school COVID safe, and we all need to work together in order for us to provide the safest place possible for our children, staff and families, and so that we can educate our children fully and repair any lost learning from the period of lockdown.

Welcome to Mrs McCormick

Our first big change is that we have a new teacher. I would like to welcome Mrs McCormick to St Mary's. She is the new fulltime teacher in Class 3.

Once we have returned to school and we are secure in the different ways that we are working, we will find ways of Mrs McCormick reaching out to parents virtually so that she can get to know you all.

Our classrooms

Class 1 and Class 2 have been revamped in a couple of ways. They both now have new interactive boards. I would like to thank Mr Wilkinson, our caretaker, for doing such a tremendous job on the decorating of classes 1 and 2. The rooms look fantastic.

The staff teams have invested a huge amount of their time and effort in reorganising the rooms and resources, so that we can be COVID safe and I would like to thank them all for doing such a great job. Thank you especially for giving time up in your holidays.

A much needed carpet has been replaced in Class 2. Frank's Factory Carpets gave us a great deal, so a huge thank you to them.

Parents of pupils in Class 3, please do not feel that they have been left out. Class 3 was newly decorated last year.

Face masks

No doubt over the last couple of weeks, you will have seen that the wearing of face masks has had a high profile in the media. Although the guidance has been directed towards secondary children in particular, we have developed very clear guidance regarding this issue, working closely with fellow Primary Headteachers and the central team at Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BCCET).

On return to school, children **will not** be wearing face masks in school at all. Staff will only wear face masks in communal areas only eg the hall and corridors, or if they need to work in close proximity to the children eg to administer first aid. This decision will be reviewed if there is a local lockdown.

The [Chief Medical Officers from all four nations in the United Kingdom](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education) have made it clear that the overall risks to children from coronavirus (COVID-19) in relation to education settings is low and that the risks associated with not being in school certainly outweigh those of being in school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Home Learning & paper based tasks

A big thank you to all of the parents who have supported their children to complete the paper based packs. We will be accepting the completed packs on return to school. They will be placed in a designated collection point in each of the classrooms, where they will be left until the following week, before teachers look at them.

Prizes will be awarded to any children in the second week of term, who completed their packs and either posted their work on Seesaw over the Summer, or who have returned it to school in **the first week**.

Please note, we will not be receiving any packs after the first week, unless there are special circumstances. We need to be very strict about protocols around items coming into school and going out of the building in order to ensure that we can remain COVID safe.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Here are *some* key messages relating to new protocols and procedures that you need to be aware of:

- **Adults need to continue to socially distance** - parking on the lower car park will support this
- **When dropping off children, please use the correct gates (see opening document)**—we appreciate that some families have children in each class, these children will be called in first. Please be patient whilst the children are called in by their teacher.
- **Children need to arrive on time**—no children will be permitted to enter through the reception area unless it has been arranged and/or there are special circumstances.
- **All communications with parents and carers will be via telephone call or email.** Please do not come into the school building.
- **Children are not permitted to bring in items from home,** unless they are identified in the protocols document.
- **Breakfast club will resume on the week beginning 14th September—48 hours notice will need** to be given if you wish your child to attend.
- We have no plans or date assigned to restarting tea time club at the moment. Additional and robust cleaning will be taking place in all areas every evening and we need to establish a system that is effective and streamlined before we can consider running tea-time club. We apologise for the challenges that this will cause for some of you, but safety has to be prioritised during the current situation.

Can I please request on behalf of the staff, that you remain patient whilst we establish our new routines and procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact school via phone or email if you have concerns or feedback or questions. No question is a silly one, and if you are thinking it, no doubt other parents are too. If we are to find an effective way of working, we need to keep communication between home and school open.

Thank you for your continued support *Mrs Hill*

Return date to school Tuesday 8th September