

8th March 2021



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has'.

Margaret Meade (Anthropologist)

Above is a quote that sums up the ethos of the teachers at St Mary's. Over the last few months, we have all been concerned that many children have missed out on important educational opportunities. So, on 8th March we will open our doors and windows and begin the spring term.

Our key aim will be to provide a safe environment that will support your child's learning. To do this we ask for your co-operation. Our intention is to set up a whole school COVID 19 protected zone (bubble). Below are the key points - the full detailed RISK ASSESSMENT can be downloaded from the school website.

- Children **must not** be sent to school if they are ill or if members of your household have COVID symptoms.
- School will be open from **8.30** so that pupil entry can be staggered by parents/guardians, the bell will ring promptly at **8.55**.
To keep everyone as safe as possible during the pandemic parents / carers are not allowed on the school site.
- **Reception, Year 1 & Year 2** will enter the school by the **main gate**.
Years 3 & 4 will enter the school by the **lower gate next to playgroup**.
Years 5 & 6 will enter the school by the **field gate** and walk across the school field to their classroom.

- **All pupils will sanitise/wash their hands before entry and then have their temperatures recorded.** It has to be remembered that children have high temperatures for many reasons, so if a temperature above 37.8 is observed a finger blood oxygen test will occur. If this is below 92% then the child will be isolated, and the parents phoned and given a home testing kit.
- Handwashing and sanitizing will also occur at regular intervals throughout the school day.
- **The School day will end at 3.10 for children in Year R and at 3.15 for all other year groups - hands will be sanitized, and pupils will leave via the different gates, as above.**
- **We would appreciate parents promptly collecting their children and quickly leaving the area around the school - to reduce social contact as much as possible.**

It is important that we minimise possibilities of spreading infection between home and school. **We would be grateful if children could just bring their coat, book bag and water bottle to school each day.** Throughout the term we will be making great use of our beautiful outdoor space, **so children will also need their own P.E. kit in school every day - P.E. bags can be left in school for the week.**

Thank you for your support.

Peter Kyles

Principal