



## September 2020 FAQs for Parents

### **What are the school start days in September?**

School will open only for those children who have not been in since March on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Children who have not attended since March should be brought in as per the staggered times below. All other children in Y1-6 should come in on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Nursery and Reception children have separate start days and times. Welcome back videos will come out to you via ParentHub on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **What extra safety precautions are in place?**

- Children showing symptoms of COVID19 will be isolated and must be collected as soon as possible.
- There is a staggered drop off and collection timetable.
- All pupils will be trained in how to abide by the hygiene measures implemented.
- There is a one-way system in place as you enter and leave the school site.
- Doors and windows remain open throughout the school day to aid ventilation.
- Air ventilation systems and air conditioning systems have been turned off.
- An extra cleaner has been employed by the school to clean door handles, cupboard handles, taps, table tops, surfaces and toilets during the day.
- Pupils are in Year group bubbles. Year group bubbles remain separated from each other throughout the school day. We won't gather for assemblies, hymn practices or Masses. There will be no singing.
- Frequent and thorough hand washing will occur throughout the day.
- Own hand towels are in use.
- Water fountains have been turned off.
- Hand driers have been turned off.
- Sanitisers will be in classes and around the school.
- No visitors are allowed in the school building except by prior appointment.

- You should avoid using public transport to get to and from school.
- Adults in school can wear masks and/or face shields if they want to. The Government advises against children in primary schools wearing masks.

### **What can I do to prepare my child for their return to school?**

- Talk to your child prior to their return to school about any concerns or fears they may have.
- Try to reassure them that the school has taken measures to look after them and their friends.
- Talk to your child about how we all have a part to play in keeping each other safe.
- We will be focusing on mental health activities for pupils at the beginning of the autumn term.

### **Will my Child Have their temperature taken in the morning?**

Yes, for the time being we will continue to take the children's temperatures when they arrive in school. Please stay with them whilst this check is undertaken. Year 6 children may come into school and walk home on their own if you wish. Please check their temperatures every morning before they set out for school.

### **What should my child bring with them everyday?**

Children should bring their pencil cases in everyday, a small hand towel (flannel sized and clean each day) and hand sanitiser (if you want them to have their own).

### **Where will I enter the school site?**

Parents and pupils will enter the school site **through the side gate** by the Church Hall. Only those children and their parents being dropped off at each time should enter the school.

Welcome back videos will come out before your child starts to show you how the drop off and pick up procedures.

### **Where will I exit the school site?**

Once you have dropped your child off, you will leave the school **by the gate onto South Street**. This is to facilitate a one way system through the school. All gates will be locked after the last drop off. If you need to access the school outside of drop of and pick up times please call the number on the gates and we will come and let you in.

### **Will I be expected to wait with my child in the morning?**

Yes please, whilst the temperature checks are taken.

### **I drop off more than one child, should I wait on the school grounds between drop offs?**

No, you must leave the School through the south street gate after dropping off one child and then return later for another drop off time. You cannot wait in the school grounds. Please don't gather around the entrance by the War Memorial, leave it clear so that parents and children arriving for their drop off slot can easily come into school. The entrance gate will be locked in between drop off slots.

### **Can I arrive earlier or later than my designated drop off and collection time?**

No, please do not arrive earlier or later than your designated drop off and collection time. You must abide by the allocated time in order to reduce the number of people on site at any one time. Please stick to these times and drop off/pick up points. Only one adult should come to school, please make sure any adult coming is aware of your child's drop off/collection timings and location.

#### **Start times**

8.25 Year 1 (Back double gates)

8.25 Year 2 (Front double gates)

8.35 Year 3 (Back double gates)

8.35 Year 4 (Front double gates)

8.45 Nursery (Back double gates)

8.45 Year 5 (Front double gates)

8.55 Reception (Back double gates)

8.55 Year 6 (Front classroom doors)

#### **Pick up times**

2.35 Year 1 (Back double gates)

2:35 Year 2 (Front double gates)

2.45 Year 3 (Back double gates)

2.45 Year 4 (Front double gates)

11:45 Nursery (Back double gates)

2.55 Year 5 (Front double gates)

3.05 Reception (Back double gates)

3.05 Year 6 (Front classroom doors)

### **How will I be able to speak to my child's class teacher?**

Yes via an appointment. To speak with class teachers you will need to make an appointment through the office. This is to reduce the contact between adults. Please email the office to arrange this. We are still thinking about how parents' evenings will run. Curriculum meetings will be pre-recorded and posted online on the school's website.

## **How will the classrooms and learning be organised and how will my child receive feedback?**

Children will notice differences in the way classrooms are organised and in how learning is unpacked for them. They will be seated in rows they will spend far less time working together (in groups or pairs). There will be more direct questioning from teacher to child, more mini quizzes and assessments and more use of technology for instance <https://kahoot.com>.

## **What will my child's classroom look like?**

Your child's classroom will be set out in rows so that all pupils are facing in the same direction. Adults in the room will spend most of their time at the front of the classrooms. Adults may wear masks and face shields if they wish.

## **Who will teach my child?**

The school aims to identify and plug any gaps in children's core knowledge in the Autumn term. Your child could be taught by any adult in their bubble in order to facilitate this aim.

## **What is Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)?**

Bring Your Own Device is something which the school is considering in order to maximise access to learning. Our experience during June and July showed us that the use of tablets and laptops was really powerful in making sure all the children had access to learning. Usually the schools devices are shared but under the current arrangements this is not advised. The school is looking into children in Y5 and Y6 being allowed to bring their own devices in as a short term measure during the current COVID19 pandemic, it will not be a requirement. The school will look to provide any child in these year groups without a device with one. Parents are responsible for making sure the device is charged at home, is running antivirus and (if necessary) is insured. We will update parents if this scheme goes ahead at St Mary's.

## **What will happen if my child becomes ill with COVID19 symptoms during the school day?**

- If your child becomes ill with symptoms, they will be taken to an isolation room and you will be rung immediately. Please have your phone switched on throughout the day in case we need to contact you urgently.
- You will be asked by staff to take your child for a COVID19 test.
- If your child tests positive for COVID19, your child and every person in your child's bubble may be told to self-isolate with the members of their household. The school will follow PHE advise on this and will liaise with them and you.

***"Where {a} child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days." Government Guidance, updated June 2020***

- If your child tests positive for COVID19, follow the government's stay at home guidance.

- If your child tests negative for COVID19, they may return to school.

### **How will the school communicate with us?**

News and updates will continue to be sent via the Parent Hub app which can be downloaded via this link: [www.bit.ly/SMIAPP](http://www.bit.ly/SMIAPP). For the time being the school will continue to provide updates and not newsletters. These will all be uploaded here: [www.bit.ly/SMIWSL](http://www.bit.ly/SMIWSL) with the most recent at the top of the page.

### **Will I be allowed inside the school?**

Unfortunately no, parents are not allowed to come into the school buildings in order to ensure social distancing. If a parent wants to discuss any matters with a teacher, they will need to telephone the school. Any meeting will be by appointment only by prior agreement of the Head Teacher or the Deputy Headteacher. Parents will not be allowed inside the buildings in order to use the school toilets.

For the time being there won't be any parent helpers.

### **When will the school's hygiene procedures be taught to my child?**

On day 1 of the autumn term, your child will be taught the hygiene procedures and the expectations of the school. Children will be regularly reminded.

### **Can my child bring in a water bottle?**

Yes please, your child should bring in a named water bottle. The water fountains have been turned off but water will be provided should your child need to fill up their bottle during the day.

### **Can my child bring in fruit?**

We are hoping that EYFS and KS1 pupils will continue to have their fruit provided but this has not been confirmed. KS2 pupils may bring in a piece of fruit each day.

### **Will my child be wearing full uniform?**

Yes, uniform is expected in September. Children can wear summer or winter uniform until the October half term after which winter uniform must be worn. Children in Y1-6 must wear PE kit into school on Fridays. Watches are allowed, earrings and other jewellery are not. You can see our uniform policy here: <http://www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk/helping-at-home/uniform-policy.html>.

**Will my child bring home a reading book?**

Yes, your child will bring home a reading book as reading remains a school priority. However, when the book is returned to school, it will remain in a box for 48 hours. Your child will still have a reading record (up to Y3) which must be signed daily by you to show that your child has completed their daily reading. However, this daily reading record will not be handled by the class teacher. Instead, your child will show the class teacher your signature.

**Will Sunnysmiles at St Mary's be available?**

Yes, Sunnysmiles will be available for before school and after school care from September. However, numbers will be reduced initially. Further information can be found here: <http://www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk/helping-at-home/sunnysmiles-at-st-marys.html>

**Is the school open all week?**

Yes, the school will open to pupils from Monday to Friday during term time

**Will there be clubs after school?**

No, for the time being clubs will not run in order to minimise different groups of children from mixing.

**Will my child be able to go on school trips?**

Whilst the government advises that these are possible, the school remains cautious about organising school trips. For this reason, there will be no school trips for the foreseeable future. We will inform you when we feel that it is safe to resume trips off site.

**Will the Y5 and Y6 School Journeys take place?**

At this stage Government advice is that schools do not plan residential trips and that no overnight residential trips take place. We will continue to monitor the situation. Any deposits we ask parents for will be returned in the event of the trip not running.

### **Where will my child eat their lunch?**

Your child will eat their lunch in their classroom in order to ensure separation of the bubbles. Infant children will have the Universal Free School meal. Junior children can bring in a packed lunch or a school lunch can be booked and paid for via Parent Pay.

### **Will Y4 swimming be happening in the autumn term?**

No, swimming lessons will not be happening in the autumn term.

### **Will my child take part in the National Statutory Assessments?**

Yes; children in **Reception will undertake the on-entry Reception Baseline before the October half term,**

**Y1 2020-2021 the Phonics check in June 2021,**

**Y2 (the 2019-2020 Y1s) the Y1 phonics check in the Autumn Term 2020 and again in June 2021 if they do not pass and the KS1 SATs in June 2021 which inform the Teacher Assessments for the year,**

**Y4 the Times tables check in June 2021**

and **Y6 the KS2 SATs in May 2021.**

### **How can I follow what the children are learning?**

A presentation, recorded by the teachers, on the learning for the year will be uploaded and sent out to you before half term.

Weekly learning will continue to be uploaded to the Home Learning folder on Google Drive.

Year group pages will be updated with content too and key learning will be uploaded a week at a time (in advance) to the Home Learning page: [www.bit.ly/SMIHLarchive](http://www.bit.ly/SMIHLarchive).

Maths No Problem! Books and resources can be purchased from Amazon. Look here for a guide on how we teach maths: <http://www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk/helping-at-home/maths-no-problem.html>.

In the event of a local or bubble lock down we will switch all those effected to the Oak National Academy resources: <https://www.thenational.academy>. We will do this to ensure learning opportunities are still available in the event of St Mary's staff becoming unwell.

**We will add more questions and answers to these FAQs as we move forward.**