

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



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Friday 11th September

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued support as the children have returned to school. It has been wonderful to have our Reception children in school this week and I know our Year 6 pupils are eager to think up innovative ways to help and support their buddies as they start their journey at St Mary Magdalen's. It is so special to see this sense of community and how the children are settling into their new routines and enjoying being back with their friends and teachers.

Achieving for Children has released guidance for parents regarding the return to school and this is attached. As you know, we are constantly monitoring the systems we have put in place. As such, there are a few reminders that will help us to ensure the safety of our community:

- Please make sure you use the one-way system if you enter the school site. Entering via the main playground gate and leaving via the church helps to reduce congestion in the narrow alleys around the school.
- Please minimise the time you spend on the school site. We are working hard to make sure we dismiss promptly and ask that you leave the school site rather than staying to use the playground equipment or talk and mix with other family groups.
- Please minimise the number of people coming to the site. We understand you may well need to bring siblings with you, but where possible, can only one adult come to drop off and pick up.
- Please make sure your child has a named water bottle. We have turned off the drinking fountains and whilst we can provide water, a personal water bottle is the best way to ensure your child has enough to drink.
- Please be considerate of our neighbours. As you know, we are on a small site with restricted access and our neighbours are conscious of the additional traffic and footfall created by the school. Please park on nearby streets and walk where possible.

We have noticed that very few pupils are being picked up or dropped off towards the end of the 40 minute periods we have timetabled. Therefore, we have decided to make this a shorter period of time which will also allow us more time for teaching and learning and avoid parents of siblings needing to wait. The location of pick up and drop off will remain the same, but from Monday 14th September timings will be:

8.40-8.50 and 3.10-3.20 – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

8.50-9.00 and 3.20-3.30 – Year 3,4,5 and 6

The overlap will allow siblings to be dropped off and picked up at the same time.

Thank you to everyone who has returned their child's consent form for the flu vaccination. They must be returned by **Monday 14th September**. The vaccination will take place in school on Thursday 8th October. We hope that this will help the children to stay well and in school during the autumn term and flu season as many of the symptoms of COVID 19 are similar to those of flu and colds. However, if your child does have symptoms, it is vital that you keep them at home and inform the school. All those showing symptoms should



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

be tested and any positive tests should be reported to the school. If a suspected case occurs in school, the child or member of staff will be isolated, areas will be cleaned and we will seek permission to inform the parents of the children within that bubble. Until a positive test result is received, nobody within a "bubble" is required to isolate. If a child or member of staff tests positive then their bubble will also be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and they will be told to isolate.

Many of you are using our breakfast club provision. Thank you for booking online as this ensures the bubbles do not mix before school. Whilst there are currently no after school clubs, Mortlake Hall offers after school care at the end of the school day. This can be booked until 4:30pm or until 6pm. The after-school club has put new measures in place to keep children safe during covid-19. These include:

- afterschool care just for Mary Mags children
- temperature checks for all children at pick up from the school
- children kept in bubbles of 15 as per government guidance
- parents must collect children from the front door of the after-school club

Please visit <http://mortlakehall.co.uk/after-school-club/> to book and to learn more about the measures put in place.

Next week, the teachers will be sharing more information with you regarding the year ahead via their information meetings. Normally, these would be held after drop off but we are instead offering live Google meets over the course of the week. Please do not worry if you are unable to attend as you will be sent links to a recording of the presentation and the supporting documents which you will be able to view at a time that works for you. So that the presentations can be heard clearly, we ask that you mute your microphones and cameras. In order for us to answer all your questions, we would like you to submit them in advance and then they can be addressed in the meeting. Please use the following Google document to record your questions:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SHgOvsj1lyWSIS8bdfMviFU7QD8TfIn8ND3lspd7ZdU/edit?usp=sharing>

The meetings will be as follows:

Monday 14th September - 5.30pm

Year 6 - <https://meet.google.com/cpc-dyix-fir>

Year 5 - <https://meet.google.com/nau-wfod-rrz>

Tuesday 15th September - 5.30pm

Year 4 - <https://meet.google.com/vit-eosk-ccd>

Year 3 - <https://meet.google.com/jiw-xgvg-fyu>

Wednesday 16th September - 5.30pm

Year 2 - <https://meet.google.com/ecs-hmkp-dgj>

Year 1 - <https://meet.google.com/oia-pa qx-qtc>

Thursday 17th September - 5.30pm

Reception - <https://meet.google.com/cbc-cqju-der>

Thank you in advance for your interest and engagement even if you cannot attend. Our strong home school partnership remains key to our pupils' continued success. I hope you have a happy and healthy weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Catherine Hughes
Headteacher

