



## September FAQs for Early Years Parents (Nursery and Reception)

We know that your child starting school is a big step at the best of times, let alone during the current situation! We are here to support you as best we can and hope the below information will answer some of your questions. Please do contact the office if there is anything else, we can help you with to ease the process.

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

Nursery and reception children have staggered start dates to allow them to start in small groups to help with the settling in process. This information will have come to you in July via email or the Parent Hub app. Welcome videos should have also come to you via email.

### **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, tabletops, 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 start to school?**

- Show them the welcome videos and talk to them about their teacher and the classroom.
- 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.

### **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.

### **What should my child bring with them every day?**

- Book bag
- Water bottle (your child will be provided one on their first day)
- A small hand towel (flannel sized and clean each day)
- Hand sanitiser (If you want them to have their own)

Children in Early Years **do not** need pencil cases.

### **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.

### **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 at 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.

### **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.

#### **Nursery drop off time:**

8.45 Nursery (Back double gates)

#### **Nursery Pick up time:**

11.45 (Back double gates)

#### **Reception drop off time:**

8.55 (back double gates)

#### **Reception pick up time:**

3.05\* (back double gates)

\*Reception children start full time on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Until then they will finish at 1.30pm

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

Appointments to speak with class teachers will need to be made through the office. This is to reduce the contact between adults at the classroom door. Please email the office to arrange this. We are still thinking about how parents' evenings will run.

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

We have removed some items from the classrooms that are difficult to clean, such as soft furnishings. Other than this, the classrooms will have their usual resources. These will be frequently cleaned and items such as playdough will be changed regularly.

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

Mrs O'Halloran and Mrs Myers will be in the nursery bubble. The reception bubble is two classes so has four adults that will spend time with your child. They are Miss Dawson, Mrs Wilson Miss Lloyd and Mrs Wakelin.

### **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, 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.

### **What will happen if my child does not want to come into school?**

The class teacher will talk with you and your child and we will work together to find a solution.

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

We will introduce it to the children on their first day and continue to remind them regularly.

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

Your child will be given a water bottle on their first day which they can then bring to school with them each day with fresh water in it.

**Can my child bring in fruit?**

The Governments' fruit scheme for infant children is running again so your child does not need to bring in fruit as it will be provided daily for children in nursery and reception.

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

Yes, uniform is expected in September. Please check the school uniform policy to ensure your child is in the correct early years uniform.

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

Children in reception will begin to bring home reading books after October half term. When the book is returned to school, it will remain in a box for 48 hours.

Your child will still have a reading record which must be signed by you to show that your child has completed their 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.

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

Nursery children are collected before lunchtime. Reception children will eat their lunch in the small hall so that they are all able to have a table and chair. They will have the Universal Free School meal which can be booked via parent pay. You will receive login details for parent pay once your child has started.

### **Will my child have lunch when they are there for half days?**

Yes, they stay until 1.30 so that they can get used to the lunchtime routine. They will have the Universal Free School meals from day one, so you do not need to provide lunch.

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

Yes; children in **Reception will undertake the on-entry Reception Baseline**. This is a small series of activities that they complete with the teacher to help the teacher understand their current levels of development.

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

You will receive an email with instructions on how to sign up to Evidence Me which is the app we use to record observations in the early years. You will then be able to see any observations staff have recorded and add your own.

Year group pages will be updated with content 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).

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 resources are still available in the event of St Mary's staff becoming unwell.