



## March 2021 FAQs for Parents

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

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March we'll be open for all children to return to school. Everyone should come in on Monday. Please remember to book lunches beforehand using Parent Pay or send a packed lunch in. Items (wrappers and cartons) in the packed lunch boxes will continue to be placed back in the box after lunch and brought home at the end of the day.

**Only children who are well should come into school. If children are unwell in ANY way they should stay at home. This includes tummy issues, dizziness and headaches as these symptoms have been linked to positive COVID 19 cases here.**

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

COVID19 secure procedures remain in place and we are prepared for outbreaks and bubbles being sent home. Some staff remain working at home. In order to be as COVID 19 secure as possible we won't hold large events or gather together in anyway. All plans and events are subject to change or cancellation at late notice as we may have staff and children being sent home.

- 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 the same as before.
- All pupils will be re-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 will continue to clean door handles, cupboard handles, taps, table tops, surfaces and toilets during the day.
- Children will remain 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 – please send them in with a hand towel.
- 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 face shields if they want to. The Government advises against children in primary schools wearing masks but the new guidance suggests adults do in corridors and in places where social distancing is not possible.

### **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 and on Reading, Writing and Maths.

### **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 but these are now inside. 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.

### **Should books come back into school?**

Yes – please return any schools books (including reading books and Maths No Problem!) and bring in one piece of work (or a photo) from their Learning at Home.

### **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 keeping 2metres apart. 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.

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

No temperature checks are taken inside now.

### **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. Keep 2 metres apart and wear masks please.

### **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 and around the school gates. 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)

### **Who can pick my child up?**

Only someone inside your child's home bubble can drop them off or collect them. Children must not be collected by another family and they must not mix outside of school.

### **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. Parents' evenings later in March will be virtual.

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

They will be seated in rows, as in the Autumn term, 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 and will be using a similar approach to the one which was successful employed in the Autumn term. Your child could be taught by any adult in their bubble in order to facilitate this aim.

### **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.

### **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?**

Your child will be retaught 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?**

EYFS and KS1 pupils will continue to have their fruit. KS2 pupils may bring in a piece of fruit each day.

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

Yes, uniform is expected when the children return. Children can wear summer or winter uniform whatever fits. They must wear school type shoes. 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. However, numbers may be reduced. 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?**

No, Government advised is that there are no school trips, visits or residential. 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 which will be after Government advise changes.

### **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. The Y5 trip to PGL Marchants Hill has been, sadly, cancelled. The Y6 trip to Rome is under review. Any deposits you have paid for will be returned, through Parent Pay, in the event of the trip not running.

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

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. Reception will eat in the small hall. Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will eat at staggered times, socially distanced, with tables cleaned between sittings in the main hall. Y5 and 6 will eat in their classrooms.

### **Will Y4 swimming be happening?**

No, swimming lessons will not be happening.

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

No, statutory assessments in reception, Y1 (phonics), Y2 (SATs), Y4 (Timetables) and Y6 (SATs) will not be running this year.

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

Presentation, recorded by the teachers, on the learning for the year have been uploaded to the Class pages. Curriculum Maps (with the weeks identified) have been uploaded to the Learning at Home folders. These will also soon be uploaded to the Class Pages on our website.

Daily learning will continue to be uploaded to the Learning at Home 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 Learning at Home 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>. Parents can register for an account with MNP! and access answers. Please see the previous update for details on how to do this.

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.**