

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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RE: Weekly Update for all parents

Dear Parents

Well done everyone! It's been a really strong start to the new academic year with over 95.5% of children (in Y1-6) attending. That's fantastic! We are now looking forward to welcoming our new nursery and reception children to our school community. We've really enjoyed having the children back where they belong and it's been great to welcome them and you back to school. We are sorry that you don't get to see the classrooms or have much time with the teachers. Please continue to email any questions or requests into the office. We've all been really impressed with how the children have transitioned back into school life and we are concentrating on finding out what they remember and identifying any gaps so that these can be plugged. We are taking care of their well-being and mental health too.

As we know the Government has changed the guidelines on how many of us can meet together in groups – the so called 'Rule of 6'. At the same time there's a new slogan '**Hands, Face, Space**' and we are all being asked to make sure we wash our hands, cover our face and give each other space. You will have seen the update from this week from Public Health Hounslow asking you as parents to take steps to control the spread of the virus. In particular the update asked that you "please be responsible as parents – **don't gather in groups at the school gates, wear a mask if it's busy**, don't send your child to school if they have symptoms and be patient with the schools phased opening arrangements."

We are constantly looking into how we can make drop off and pick up as smooth and safe as possible. The government guidance is clear that gathering at school gates and otherwise coming on to the school site is not

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allowed. For these reasons, we cannot use the playground for pick up and drop off times. This limits our potential choice of options.

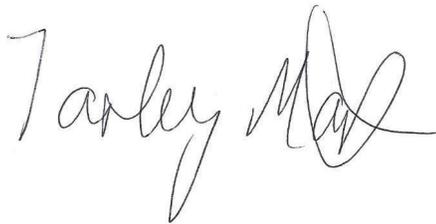
We have also looked into how we could accommodate a family drop off time where siblings of the same family can be dropped off and picked up at the same time. There are 180 siblings in the school, which is just under half of the children we have on roll. We have not yet found a suitable and safe solution to this which stays within the government guidance.

We need to ask you to keep further apart from each other when you are outside of school and to wear a mask too please so that we can best keep everyone in the school community safe and avoid having to send bubbles home and into 14 days of isolation. None of us want to have to send children who have just returned to school home. But this is what's happening in some Hounslow schools and in schools in Surrey. So please make an extra effort to keep much further apart and please also wear a mask.

If you have any questions please email the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

St Mary! Pray for Us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farley Marsh'.

F Marsh

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What to do if a pupil is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

If anyone in your school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and be advised to follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). This sets out that they must:

- self-isolate for at least 10 days
- arrange to have a [test to see if they have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Action list

1. In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital except in an emergency.
2. Call parents/legal guardian to collect pupil and take them home. Advise them that all household members will need to isolate and refer them to the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).
3. While the pupil is awaiting collection, move them to an isolated room and open a window for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
4. Staff caring for a pupil while they are awaiting collection should maintain 2 metre distancing. If not possible, for example with a young child, they should wear suitable PPE¹:

Situation	PPE
2m distance cannot be maintained	A face mask should be worn
Contact is necessary	Gloves, an apron and a face mask should be worn
Risk of fluids entering the eye (e.g. from coughing, spitting or vomiting)	Eye protection should also be worn

¹ More information on PPE use can be found in the [Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) guidance.

5. If the pupil needs to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
6. From 26 August, all schools and FE providers will have received an initial supply of 10 [home test kits](#). Home test kits should only be offered to individuals in the exceptional circumstance that you believe an individual may have barriers to accessing testing elsewhere.
7. Staff/other pupils who have had contact with the symptomatic pupil must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds.
8. When parents/legal guardian pick up the pupil, advise them to get the pupil tested and notify you of the results.
9. Once the pupil has left the premises, thoroughly disinfect/clean all surfaces and contact points they came into contact with (including the bathroom if used).

What to do if a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

1. Notify your local health protection team (HPT) immediately when you become aware that a pupil or a member of staff who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus. Find contact details for your local [health protection team](#).
2. The HPT will work with you to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify appropriate next steps.
3. With HPT advice, identify close contacts of the symptomatic individual. Contact tracers will inform contacts that they need to self-isolate for 14 days in line with [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).
4. For pupils who are isolating, ensure access to remote provision so that they can continue to learn remotely.
5. A template letter will be provided to schools, on the advice of the health protection team, to send to parents and staff if needed.
6. Schools must not share the names of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.