

# ST MARK'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher: Ms Laura Kelsey BA (Hons), PGCE, CEPQH

Thursday, 25 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to outline our plans for wider re-opening in line with Department for Education advice to resume school attendance for all pupils from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The good thing is that these look very similar to school in the Autumn term so it will be familiar to the children and yourselves and we can't wait to see you all again.



## Important reminders

- Based on current evidence, schools cannot guarantee to be free of risks from Covid-19.
- Children should not attend if they have a cough, temperature or loss of taste/smell and should get tested to see if they have Covid-19 as soon as possible.
- Children should stay at home for 10 days if anyone in their household has these symptoms.
- If anyone in your household has symptoms, you should request a Covid-19 test immediately and your child/ren should not attend school until a negative test has been confirmed for the person with symptoms.

Please complete this google form to confirm that you understand and will follow these rules.

[Please Click Here - Covid-19](#)



## Procedures

We will be continuing to operate in class "bubbles" and avoiding contact between the classes as a way of managing the Covid 19 risk. **It is important for parents/carers to note that we will not be able to socially distance within the class bubbles.** Children will be sitting next to each other at their tables but sitting side by side rather than face to face like they were in the Autumn term.

We will be continuing with the staggered starts and finishes to the end of the day, using the church yard like we were previously. **Please note – the timings of these have changed slightly from Autumn term.** Please ensure that only a maximum of one adult comes with your siblings in more than one class, you can choose which slot to use as they can go into school together and all siblings will exit with the youngest sibling as they were in the Autumn term. **Please do not arrive before or after your scheduled drop off/pick up time and please make sure you are maintaining social distance from other adults and children at all times.**



Class	Drop off	Pick up
Bluebell	8:55am	3pm
Fern	8:50am	3:05pm
Bramble	8:40am	3:15pm
Laurel	8:45am	Can walk themselves out with permission via path at 3:15pm



**Please note that sadly parents cannot enter the school site without an appointment and should not gather or interact closer than 2 metres apart when waiting outside.**

**Brantridge Lane, Staplefield, West Sussex RH17 6EN**  
**T (01444) 400398 F (01444) 401244 E office@st-marks.w-sussex.sch.uk**  
**www.st-marks.w-sussex.sch.uk**

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## Lunch time and play time

Each class will remain separate at all times. Break and Lunch times will be held at different times/areas. **Hot meals can be provided as normal.** Your children are welcome to bring their own packed lunch if they prefer; please let us know so we can order the correct amount of food.

## Clothing, PE and items from home

Children should wear school uniform. We are planning to spend as much time as possible outside whilst remaining in our bubbles so please ensure that all children have a coat with them every day. Please do not wear any jewellery to school and ensure shoulder length or longer hair is tied up. Please make sure that children wear footwear that they can put on themselves e.g. Velcro unless children can tie their own laces. Please avoid bringing unnecessary items from home e.g. toys. The government have advised no face coverings in school for children; if your child/ren have worn them on the journey to school, they will be asked to carefully remove them before entering and place them in a plastic bag before putting in their school bag and washing their hands.

**Please can children come dressed in their PE kits on the following days:**

**Bluebell – Thursdays**

**Fern – Tuesdays and Fridays**

**Bramble – Tuesdays**

**Laurel – Tuesdays and Thursdays.**



## Toilets

Only one class in the school will be allowed to go to the toilet at any time throughout the school. Each class has a walkie talkie to check no one else is in the toilet. This will stop contact in the toilets and corridors. The toilets will also be wiped down hourly and children will be asked to wash/sanitise their hands for 20 seconds.



## Hygiene

Handwashing and regularly cleaning will still be a priority in school. Children will be asked to wash their hands when they come in, before and after break and lunch and before they go home. Frequent cleaning of touch points and resources will happen throughout the day as well as a thorough clean in the evenings.



## Wraparound care and clubs

**We will not be opening this until after Easter** when the “stay at home” laws have changed. This will give us four weeks to see how the return to schools have impacted on the infection rate in the community. We will be sending out a survey during this term to ask you if you require these clubs in the summer term as take up, particularly for sunrise club, was very low in the Autumn term and we need to see if it will be financially viable to open these for the Summer term.



## What happens if there is a Covid-19 case in school?



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If anyone in school experiences symptoms, they have to go for a Covid-19 test. If the test is positive, the class, and anyone who has been in close contact with that person, will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days. If there are multiple cases or a local lockdown, we may be asked to close the school for a short period. In all cases, we will be providing home learning for all affected children. Staff also have access to twice weekly Lateral Flow Covid testing to pick up asymptomatic cases.

I hope that this has answered some of your questions. If you have any other questions, please get in touch and I will do my best to answer them all. I want to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community for the wonderful support and kind comments we have received throughout this difficult time. We really do appreciate them and it has made me so grateful to be part of such a caring, strong community. I look forward to seeing you all on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Kelsey'.

Laura Kelsey  
Headteacher

