



*At St Mary's we...
Live, Love and Learn with the Guidance of God*

Tennyson Avenue
Grangetown
Middlesbrough
TS6 7AD
Tel: 01642 455309

Email: enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk
Website: <https://stmarys.npcat.org.uk/>



Wednesday 15th July

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we begin to set our sights on the full opening of schools in September. Over the last four months, the whole school community has faced challenges that we could never have imagined. Yet we have faced them. Our pupils have faced them and you, as parents and carers have also faced them. You have shown determination and resilience in juggling family commitments with homeschooling. For this we thank you. We also thank our pupils. Many have needed to adapt to home learning and have needed to display new skills of resilience and independence.

Thankfully, we are delighted to confirm the Government has allowed schools to reopen fully in September and we look forward to welcoming back our pupils. The school has not been the same without them all.

In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when our pupils return to school for the new academic year. This letter sets out some of the changes and protective measures the government is asking us to put in place and what you will need to do to help ensure we can be as safe as possible for everyone.

Please read the following carefully so you understand the measures and expectations in place to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff.

Attendance

In September, school attendance will be mandatory. This means that the legal duty on parents of children of compulsory school age will apply. It is vital that children return to school as quickly as possible for their educational progress, wellbeing and wider development.

Where shielding advice remains in place for your child, it is important that you communicate this information to Mrs Jones (Parent Support Adviser) so we can ensure remote learning continues. We would ask for evidence from your child's doctor or other medical professional, to support this requirement. The same support may be considered where a child is self-isolating with symptoms.

It is the expectation that parents will avoid a holiday in term-time as this will cause further disruption to their child's education. Holidays in term-time must be in writing to the Headteacher using the appropriate form and providing details of the destination to be visited. A request will only be agreed where it is satisfied there is an exceptional circumstance that is in accordance with the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust policy. If the area to be visited is at high risk of transmission of the coronavirus, the school must



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ensure that there is an individual risk assessment in place for the child to return to school. Legal powers to enforce attendance will be used where a child misses school without a valid reason and the absence is unauthorised.

Absence

Please can we also remind you that if your child is ill or unable to attend school for any reason, you **MUST** ring school before 9.00am to notify us of their absence and provide a reason. This is essential for safeguarding your children.

Precautions

We will continue to take precautions in line with DFE guidance such as:

- ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- minimising contact and maintaining distance where possible

You must not send your child to school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or if you have someone in your household who does. We would ask parents and carers to support us by engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to get a test and you should inform us of the results of that test.

Returning to School

On our return to school in September, children will become part of their phase group bubble. Following government guidance, children will be seated in rows in class. As a school, we have made the decision to implement this for our children in Year 3 upwards. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to work in groups. As far as is possible, children will remain in this class bubble and will be distanced from other groups of children during break times, which will be staggered. Organisation of Children in School Pupils will be divided into phase 'bubbles'.

Bubble 1: Year 5 & 6

Bubble 2: Year 3 & 4

Bubble 3: Year 1 & 2

Bubble 4: Nursery & Reception

There will be no whole school gatherings of any kind.



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School Day

Our normal school hours are 9.00am – 3.00pm but from 2nd September we will be offering a flexible start time of 8.45-9.00am and pick up time of 3.00-3.15pm to reduce the numbers of people on site at the same time.

Parents and pupils must observe social distancing measures and remain apart from other groups. Entry into school will be a one way system with clear markings. Exit from school will be a one way system with clear markings. Please observe any markings in place.

Only one parent/adult should drop and collect their child. If at all possible, other siblings should not attend at drop off and pick up times. If there is absolutely no alternative, then they must remain beside their parents. Toddlers should remain in their pushchairs and not be allowed to roam. Please remain at the edge of the playground whilst waiting for your child and allow them to come to you. Please leave the school promptly and do not linger to talk to others - even if at a safe distance.

Only children in years 5 and 6 will be allowed to walk home from September, so if you would like your child to walk home, you must email school and let us know as soon as possible please. Our school email address is: enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk

Breakfast Club

If parents wish for their child to attend breakfast club, please inform Mrs Jones either by phone: 01642 455309 or email: jones.l@stmarys.npcat.org.uk prior to the day you are attending, so that enough staff can be allocated to ensure children remain in their phase bubbles.

School Uniform

As a reminder, our uniform policy from September 2020 is as follows:

Grey trousers or skirt

White shirt

School jumper/cardigan

School tie

Black school shoes – NO TRAINERS FOR BOYS OR GIRLS

No jewellery, including earrings

No nail varnish/false nails

No extreme haircuts/hair colours

School book bags - no rucksacks or pencil cases – all stationery items are provided by school

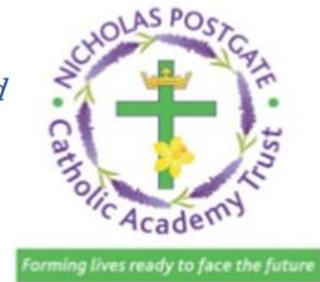


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PE uniform:

White t-shirt/polo shirt
Dark bottoms (navy or black)
Plimsolls
Dark jumper/top – no branded hoodies/sweatshirts

All PE kits to be brought to school in drawstring bags as storage space is limited in school

Lunches

We will resume the option of a cooked meal as well as a packed lunch for all children from September 2020. We will assume all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have a school meal as they are entitled to one for free. A reduced menu will be posted on the school website shortly.

A letter will be sent home when we return, asking you to indicate your lunch preference.

Curriculum

We have been given clear expectations from the Government on what we are expected to teach when pupils return in September. We will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects in order to support the needs of our pupils and address the gaps as a result of lost learning time.

In response to COVID-19 and the many weeks children have been unable to access school as we know it, we have created our very own 'Recovery Curriculum'. We thank you for your responses to our questionnaire, as this has already shaped the first few weeks of teaching. The questionnaire highlighted concerns around children's mental health and their wellbeing. As a response to this we will ensure time is given throughout the day for children to 'check in' with their teachers and discuss difficulties they may have faced during this time, and or anxieties they may have when returning to school. To help all children when they return, we will re-establish routines and relationships, and through a mindfulness approach place an emphasis on the teaching of PSHE, supporting the children's mental health and wellbeing.

Learning through our faith and living out our school values and virtues will be central to all we do. We will continue to support our school family as we have done during this time and put our faith into action.

We also feel it is important that the children are proud of their rich heritage and history of their home town and area. Our five curriculum drivers will underpin all of the teaching and learning at St Mary's. The whole school will study the history of Grangetown, moving onto Middlesbrough and then the North East of England. Within our local area study we will teach History, Geography and Art. Daily 'back to basics' English and Maths lessons will ensure any gaps the children have in their learning will be filled. In addition to this,



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we have developed a passport system, whereby any child who attends St Mary's will experience many wonderful opportunities and visits.

From September 2020 reading will be at the heart of our curriculum. We have redesigned the library, converted spaces to make reading books and green screens, throughout the school. We would love for your child to choose to read, not because we expect them to, but because they know how beneficial it is to their learning and knowledge - please be ready to share with us the books you have read over the summer. If you would like a book then please get in touch - we are always happy to support our children's reading.

September Return

School will close on **Friday 17th July** for the summer break. We will not be open to children during the summer break. School reopens on **Wednesday 2nd September** and we want this to feel as normal as possible for children and their parents.

The last term has been challenging for many different reasons and as a school community we have had times of triumph and times of heartache, where we have stood together as a school family and supported one another. I would personally like to thank you for all the support you have given to our school. We are very blessed to count you all as members of our school family.

We hope you have a restful break and return to school ready to learn!

God Bless

Mrs Anna McClurey

Headteacher



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