



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School (Update)

Questions & Answers – Return to school in September 2021

I am writing to answer some of the many questions you may have about your child returning to school in September. The information is based upon the current guidance and as always this may change. I will try to keep you up to date as much as possible.

Question 1: When does my child come back to school?

The school term starts on **Thursday 2nd September 2021** and school attendance will be mandatory. Children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will attend school full time as normal. Nursery children will attend for the morning session unless they are eligible for 30-hour Nursery provision. Those children who are just starting nursery for the first time have 2 afternoon taster sessions on Friday 3rd and Monday 6th September from 1.30pm – 2.30pm and will then start their allotted session from Wednesday 8th September.

Question 2: Will the start and finish time stay as it was last year?

The way we organised the start and finish of the school day worked well last year so we have decided to keep a similar approach in September. The idea of meeting the children on the school gate in a morning helped to promote a calm start to the school day.

The start and finishing times for September will be as follows:

The school gates will be open between **8.15 a.m. and 8.45 a.m.** and children will be met on the school gate by a member of staff and escorted to their classroom. There will be no breakfast club provision, in September, but your child may bring a breakfast snack to eat in their classroom, between 8.15 and 8.45 a.m.

The school gates will be open at **3.00 p.m.** and children should be collected between **3.00 p.m. and 3.15 p.m.**

Parents are able to decide their own drop off and collection times (within the above times).

*For those children in nursery who stay for just the morning sessions, they can be collected at 11.55am from the front gate by Mrs. Hillon's Office.

Question 3: Will my child be able to walk to school on their own and be able to play out on the playground in the morning?

Answer: Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 MUST be dropped off and collected by an adult. Children in Key Stage 2 may walk to and from school if the parents wish, however we need written permission, from parents, to say that their child will not be met by an adult on the playground and will be walking home at the end of the school day .

On arrival at school, children should go straight to their classroom.

Question 4: Where will my child be taught?

Answer: Children will be in their own classroom and staff are busy setting up their classrooms for September.

Question 5: What should my child wear for school?

Answer: School uniform **must** be worn as normal. Children should have a coat to go outside in as when possible classes will go outside. The windows may still be left open for ventilation so I would recommend that your child has a school jumper or cardigan every day.

All children (Reception to Year 6) will need an outdoor PE kit (grey sweatshirt (school logo), white t-shirt and plain black joggers) as PE lessons will take place outside as much as possible. On days when your child will be having a PE lesson, they should come to school wearing their outdoor PE kit. Please note that children WILL NOT be able to share PE kits in school. We will let parents know which days their child has PE as soon as a timetable is drawn up. Please ensure all uniform and P.E. kit are labelled with your child's name.



Question 6: Will my child be able to interact with a child from another class?

Answer: Some of the changes that we have made will remain, staggered lunches and break times make school a much calmer place at social times, and these will continue. The government announcements mean that there is no longer a need for bubbles so there could be more interaction between classes than happened last year.

Question 7: What about lunch time?

Answer: School meals will be provided by Caterlink. For those who pay, please continue to upload funds on the parent pay account. Children may bring their own packed lunch in a lunch box. Lunchtimes will be staggered and all children will eat their lunch in the school hall.

Question 8: Can my child bring a drink to school?

Answer: It is important that all children bring a **bottle of water** to school. The water bottle should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Please ensure that your child's bottle contains water (not juice).

Question 9: What if my child is ill?

Answer: If you suspect your child is ill before school, please contact school as you would normally letting us know the reason.

Question 10: What if my child is ill in school?

Answer: Where a child is ill whilst at school, parents will be informed and the child will be moved to a quiet room until they can be collected. Adult supervision will be provided at all times by a member of staff.

I'm sure there are many more questions you will have. I will update you with further information for children once children have settled back into school and if there is any change to government guidance.

Please be assured that school has the safety and well-being of children and staff at the centre of all the ongoing preparations and will update policies and procedures according to government and local authority guidance.

Thank you.

S. Starkie