



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

*Proudly and Joyfully, we love, live and learn as God's Children*



**Coronavirus:**  
school update

A guide for ALL parents on children returning to school in September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Please read this booklet carefully as it explains our plan for September and our expectations for your child/ren. In order to open the school safely to ALL children in September, staff and governors at St. Mark's have carefully taken into consideration all government guidance in relation to the re-opening of schools.

We recognise that many of you will have had very different experiences of Covid-19 and of Lockdown. For many children, it will have been 6 months since they were last in school. Therefore, it is very important that YOUR child/ren returns to school in September 2020. We recognise that returning to school after such a long break can seem very daunting and cause some worry and anxiety.

Your child's wellbeing is our priority and we anticipate that for many children, the return to school will be met with a mixture of emotions. Staff in school are prepared to support your child/ren but please work with us and let us know in advance if possible of any concerns you have for your child/ren.

St. Mark's Catholic Primary school will be open to ALL children from **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. (The only children that will not be expected to attend school on this day are the new Reception children, as they have a separate transition programme.)

### Managing your child's transition back to school...

Since March, the role of staff in school has changed significantly to accommodate for the many changes/guidelines we have made to support children in school and at home. We feel it is important that your child spends some time with their class teacher from last year before meeting and moving up to their next class teacher. Your child/ren will spend all of Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and part of Thursday with their last class teacher. On the afternoon of Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, your child/ren will meet their new class teacher for this year and they will remain with them in their new classroom for the remainder of the week. **Please note: your child should go to their new classroom as only teachers will be moving around and not children.**

|  | Class     | Teacher                                      | Teaching assistant |
|--|-----------|--|--------------------|
| Teachers for the year beginning September 2020 | Reception | Mrs. Dykes                                   | Mrs. Smith         |
|  | Year 1    | Miss Stewart                                 | Mrs. Doody         |
|  | Year 2    | Miss Cooney                                  | Miss Asson         |
|  | Year 3    | Miss Grant                                   | Mrs. O'Shea        |
|  | Year 4    | Mrs. Khan (4days)/<br>Mr. Hemmingway (1 day) | Mrs. Smith         |
|  | Year 5    | Miss Francis                                 | Mrs. Smalling      |
|  | Year 6    | Miss Dorsett                                 | Mrs. Nellist       |



Please see our school video by staff at St. Mark's on returning to school in September 2020! (emailed to all BGfL accounts) This will help familiarise your child with school and hopefully make them smile too!



### Meeting your child's class teacher

On the following dates, we have arranged for you to meet your child's class teacher and learn about the expectations for the year. At this meeting you can also share any concerns you may have about your child with their class teacher. This is a meeting for PARENTS ONLY and we are encouraging ALL parents to attend. Chairs will be arranged in the hall to allow for parents to sit apart at a safe distance. Parents will be expected to sanitise their hands on entry into the school hall and on departure.

| Day       | Time        | Year group |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Monday    | 2.30-3.00pm | Year 1     |
| Tuesday   | 9.00-9.30am | Year 2     |
| Tuesday   | 2.30-3.00pm | Year 5     |
| Wednesday | 9.00-9.30am | Year 3     |
| Wednesday | 2.30-3.00pm | Year 6     |
| Thursday  | 9.00-9.30am | Year 4     |

From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, your child will be undertaking some assessments relating to the topics and areas of work that they have missed due to not being at school. These assessments will be staggered across a number of weeks and WILL NOT be undertaken in test conditions. The aim of these assessments is to identify gaps in learning so that we can provide the best support and maximise time in school to best support your child and reduce their gaps in learning. The assessments teachers will be using will be from the Spring Term, as we aim to continue from the last time we saw your child/ren in school.

| Week beginning:                   | Assessment focus: |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September  | Literacy          |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September | Maths             |

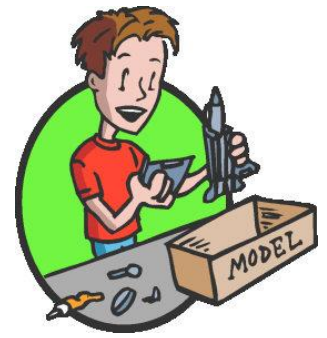
Your child will receive a school planner in September, please write any important notes in your child's planner as these will be checked by staff on a daily basis.

### Summer Holiday Requirements

Please see the project work set on BGfL by your child's class teacher for your child/ren to complete over the Summer holiday and you can find this on our school website on the Covid-19 Response Page. We would like to see all homework in school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



# AROUND the WORLD



In addition to project work, we have given every child in school a task to complete on their identity. We are encouraging families to have conversations with their child/ren about their identity and their family members.

| Year group    | Task   |
|---------------|--|
| Reception     | Children will create an A4 picture of themselves - encourage children to look closely at their face and their features and discuss all the things that make them special. (It would be lovely to have actual photographs attached to the pictures they create!)  |
| Year 1        | Children will create an A4 image of their family - encourage children to discuss what makes their family special and discuss that all families are different and this should be celebrated. (It would be lovely to have actual photographs attached to the pictures they create!)  |
| Year 2        | Children should create a fact sheet/booklet about their family. They should write about what makes their family special. Including any real life photographs would be great too!   |
| Years 3 and 4 | Children should discuss their culture/s with their family and recognise (with adult support) what items in their home/customs and traditions or beliefs they have that relate to their culture. Children should create a leaflet about their family and the cultures they identify within their family.  |
| Years 5 and 6 | Please complete a family tree and choose one person in your family tree to interview. Ask them questions about their identity, ethnicity, culture for example; What are they most proud of? What has happened in their life (if anything) as a result of their ethnicity? Who is their role model and why? How important is their culture to them? This could be completed on a PowerPoint presentation or in a booklet. |

Whilst we recognise that many children will be looking forward to the Summer holiday, we expect children to continue reading regularly at home and your child will have access to Bug Club throughout the holiday. Leaders in school will be monitoring the amount of reading children are undertaking in the Summer holiday. Praise postcards will continue over the holiday for bug club. Leaders will also contact parents of children not reading regularly at home on Bug Club.



## Changes to the New School Day

Inline with government guidance, children will be entering school at staggered times so that social distancing can be managed. Please adhere to these times and do not drop/collect your child outside of these times. For families with children in different year groups, please work with us and come at a suitable time and/or be patient. We ask that all parents/families keep a safe distance of at least 1 metre from others during drop off and collection times. Please do not hang around the school playground and keep hold of young children.

| Class     | IN        | OUT         | Location                 |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Reception | 8.30-8.45 | 2.45-3.00pm | Reception door           |
| Year 4    | 8.30-8.45 | 2.45-3.00pm | KS2 door                 |
| Year 3    | 8.30-8.45 | 2.45-3.00pm | KS2 door                 |
| Year 1    | 8.45-9.00 | 3-3.15pm    | KS1 door                 |
| Year 6    | 8.45-9.00 | 3-3.15pm    | KS2 door                 |
| Year 5    | 8.45-9.00 | 3-3.15pm    | KS2 door                 |
| Year 2    | 8.45-9.00 | 3-3.15pm    | Hall doors from car park |

Children will be required to wash their hands immediately after entering school and before leaving school. **Please note: If your child has an allergy to soap/hand sanitiser - please provide your child with their own suitable hand sanitizer or soap.**

There will no longer be specific gates for families to enter and depart through but staff will be continuing with using the walky talky system. This will mean that your child will make their way on to the playground once you have arrived to collect them, to avoid a large number of children standing waiting on the playground.

## Presentation

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform for starting school in September. Remember, children should not be wearing jewellery (including pierced ears to school) and should be wearing shoes (not boots, trainers or sandals). We will be gathering presentation points from each class in September as we did before Lockdown. Let's wear our uniforms with PRIDE! 😊

## What we are doing in school to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus:

The biggest difference your child will notice on their return to school is that they will have very little interaction with children outside of their year group. Break times and lunchtimes have been staggered so that children are not mixing with other children. There will be a maximum of 3 classes in the hall at any one time and distancing between the year groups will be managed carefully. Children will also be playing on separate playgrounds. It is for this reason that your child will have a slightly shorter dinner time of 45 minutes. Class teachers will provide children with brain breaks and additional playtimes if this is necessary in the afternoons. In addition to this we will also be:

- Minimising contact with individuals and maintaining social distancing where possible
- Children will have their own pens and pencils to use
- Ensuring children clean their hands thoroughly and regularly
- Ensuring staff undertake additional cleaning duties when it is necessary in the classroom.
- Ensuring the school is cleaned throughout every lunchtime when children are not in classrooms.
- Visual reminders will be displayed around the school reminding children in a child-friendly way how to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus i.e. 'Catch it, bin it' campaign posters.
- When necessary, staff will wear PPE (only during specific circumstances i.e. where a child needs to be isolated and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained)



Mr. Hemmingway in PPE

- Any child displaying any of the 3 symptoms will be isolated and parents contacted immediately. Track and Trace procedures will be followed.
- All visitors to school will be briefed on our expectations and will not be allowed into school if they have displayed any of the 3 symptoms in the last 24 hours.

All teachers and other staff **CAN** operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. Where staff need to move between classes and year groups, they will keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can. We will continue to use specialist teachers such as Miss McQueen from Dance Xchange and Mr. Hamilton for sport provision. They will be adhering to government guidance, enabling the children to access the school curriculum in a safe and positive way.

Children will not be gathering together with the whole school for occasions such as assemblies and Mass. Assemblies will be recorded and children will watch these via video link in classrooms.

### Children who are Shielding or living with someone shielding

*Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1<sup>st</sup> August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of Covid-19. This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.*

### Children allergic or sensitive to hand sanitiser/soap suds

**Please note: If your child has an allergy to soap/hand sanitiser - please provide your child with their own suitable hand sanitizer or soap.**



## Children with SEND needs

We recognise that some children will require additional support with returning to school and we will be using a range of resources to best support your child. Mrs. Dykes has put some fantastic resources together for children who need a little extra help with their return to school.



## Test and Trace

### Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

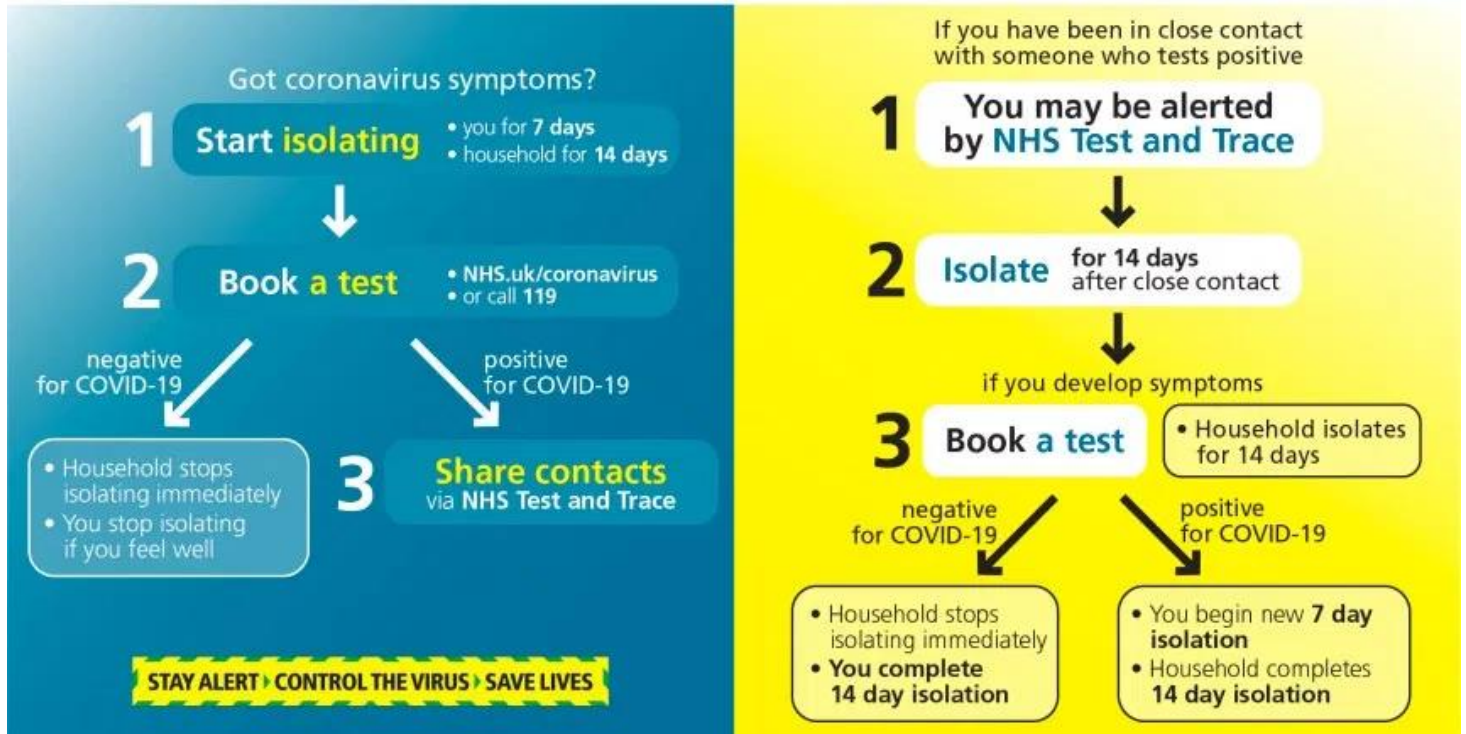
Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

**If your child develops any of the above 3 symptoms, then you MUST:**

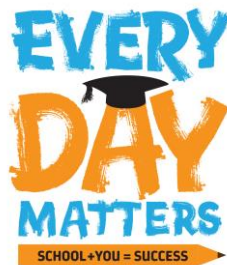
- **book a test** (you can do this online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.)
- **Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms**, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- You must also provide details of anyone that your child has been in close contact with in case you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace team.
- **You and your family must self-isolate** if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Please see the flowchart below:**





If there are any confirmed cases of Covid-19 in school at any time, appropriate action will be taken and the Health Protection Team will be alerted.



## Attendance

It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

School attendance is mandatory from September, therefore the usual school rules will apply, including:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly (daily)
- School will be recording attendance and following up any absences
- Schools now have the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

## Useful Contact Numbers

St Mark's Catholic Primary School Telephone Number 0121 357 9892

St Mark's Catholic Primary School Website <https://www.stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk/>

St Mark's Twitter [@StMarksRC](https://twitter.com/StMarksRC)

If you have any more questions, please ask.

We realise the school children are coming back to is very different from the one they left. These changes won't last forever. They are there to help to keep everyone safe - in school and at home.

We look forward to seeing you ALL in September!

God bless, and take care

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team.

