



Working, Praying, Sharing
&
Learning Together

St. Mary's R.C. Primary School
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16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

The school will open for the Autumn Term on Wednesday 2nd of September.

Following the latest advice from Welsh Government and Blaenau Gwent Education Department, we will be opening the school for all pupils in the following order:

Class	Start Date	Start of School Day	End of School Day
Nursery (Nursery Side Gate)	Staggered Morning & Afternoon Entry For First Two Weeks From Wed 2nd Sept	AM Session 9.00-11.30am	PM Session 1.00-3.20pm
Reception Class (Church Car Park, Reception Class Side Entrance)	Staggered Morning & Afternoon Entry For First Week From Wed 2nd Sept	AM Session 8.40-11.40am	PM Session 12.30-3.30pm
Year 1 (Church Car Park Entrance)	Wed 2nd Sept	8.50am	3.10pm
Year 2 (Church Car Park Entrance)	Wed 2nd Sept	9.00am	3.20pm
Year 3 (Church Car Park Entrance)	Wed 2nd Sept	9.10am	3.30pm
Year 4 (Church Car Park Entrance)	Wed 2nd Sept	9.20am	3.40pm
Year 5 (Main Entrance)	Wed 2nd Sept	8.50am	3.20pm
Year 6 (Main Entrance)	Wed 2nd Sept	9.00am	3.30pm

Rather than write a lengthy letter, I will attempt to answer any potential questions overleaf. If there is anything that I've missed, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Holly and I in the school office.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are all pupils coming back to school? Following an announcement from the Minister for Education on the 9th of July, all pupils will be returning in September.
2. The plans for Nursery & Reception Classes are confusing, can you explain? To achieve social distancing and ensure that starting school for Nursery Pupils and moving up for Reception Pupils is a positive experience, entry will be staggered over two weeks for Nursery and one week for Reception Class.
3. Will the teachers and assistants be moving classes? No, to maintain continuity, all staff will remain in their original classes. The only exceptions are Year 2, where Mrs Evans is returning from maternity leave and Year 3, where Mrs Flynn is returning to her original class.
4. How can social distancing be maintained at the beginning and end of the school day? We have staggered start and finish times and have designated different class access points (see table above).
5. How will you avoid large numbers of children playing together during break and lunchtimes? All classes will have staggered break and lunchtimes using different areas of the school.
6. How will you maintain hygiene, handwashing and infection control? Each class has a sanitisation station at the door and pupils are only permitted to enter the toilets one at a time. There is a designated member of our cleaning staff permanently on duty sterilizing door handles and hard surfaces.
7. How can you achieve social distancing with all pupils attending school at the same time? We will not be able to achieve the current 2 Metre rule in September, but all classes have been redesigned with less furniture and wherever possible, workstations/desks separated and pupils all facing the same direction.
8. What about breakfast and lunchtime? There will be no breakfast club to begin the term and pupils will eat their lunch at their workstation in each classroom. Schools are currently in negotiation with Blaenau Gwent Catering to provide a "grab bag" packed lunch rather than hot meals.
9. What if my child or a member of my family display coronavirus symptoms? If your child is feeling unwell, it is important that you do not send them to school and telephone your GP. We ask that you notify us at school and then follow the government isolation procedures.
10. Does my child have to wear school uniform in September? If your child has grown out of their old school uniform and you do not have a replacement, don't worry. The school's policy on school uniform will be relaxed for the autumn term.
11. Do I have to send my child to school in September? Attendance is compulsory, but the Welsh Government has stated that no fines will be issued for non-attendance at this stage.
12. Do I need to provide PPE for my child? As I write this letter, there are currently no requirements for pupils or staff to wear PPE, but this may change. The only time that PPE may be used at school is if staff have to care for a pupil who is displaying coronavirus symptoms.

I apologise for the length of the letter and on behalf of staff and governors thank you for supporting us through a very challenging term.

I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards

Tim Baxter

Pennaeth / Head Teacher

