



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Perry Common Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 7AB

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Letter to parents about returning to school on March 8th.

Dear Parents,

The government have decided that all schools will return on **Monday March 8th**. The guidelines we have been issued with are similar to the ones school had in the autumn term. There are still some restrictions in place about what we will be able to do or not as the case may be. The rationale is to continue to reduce social contact to minimise the spread of the disease. You can imagine in a school that is somewhat problematic however, I have set out below a plan by which everyone can return as safely as possible on the 8th.

- Monday March 8th All children return to school. Attendance is mandatory.
- All staff are undergoing Lateral Flow Tests twice a week.
- Years Nursery-Y4 arrive/depart school through the normal playground gates. Mrs Logue and Ms Rathbone will oversee the rear of school.
- Years 5 and 6 will arrive/depart school through the main entrance (up the school drive). Mr Aldred will oversee the front of school.
- The children will remain in their year group bubbles throughout the day, playing and socialising with their own year group only.
- Hand sanitisers will remain at all entrances and throughout school. The children will continue to use them each time they come into school.
- The timings of the school day will change slightly; this is to relieve congestion at home time. At the end of the day, Nursery/Reception will leave at 2:30pm. Y1 and Y2 will depart at 2:45pm with KS2 (Y3-6) leaving school at 3:00pm. All older siblings will leave with their younger brother or sister.
- The car park in front of Y6 classrooms will continue to be used as a playground.
- School dinners will resume as normal from March 8th.
- If a child presents with symptoms he or she will be “isolated” cared for and their parents sent for.
- A positive case of Coronavirus will result in the usual protocols of year groups self-isolating for 10 days. Online learning would then begin through the usual channels.



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Throughout the day, the intention is to keep children in their year group bubbles. Playtime and dinnertime will be in year groups on the separate playgrounds. Unfortunately, larger gatherings (assemblies for example) are still not feasible and I will need everyone to only really call into school in an “emergency”. Please only contact school via the telephone/email for the near future.

Can I also ask that everyone do their best in avoiding social contact with one another before and after school. Please collect your child/children and try not to linger around the school gates. If everyone continues to follow the guidelines then the sooner restrictions can be lifted. Doing this will also help in reducing the spread of the virus and thus allow year groups not having to self-isolate.

The messaging in school will be centred on hand hygiene, social distancing when possible, good respiratory hygiene (“Catch it, kill it, bin it”) and ventilating communal spaces. The children do not need to wear a face covering whilst the staff will be using PPE if they have chosen to.

It will be important that all of us support one another in the coming weeks and months. What nobody wants is further disruption with children and staff having to self-isolate at home. Please can I ask you support school by reinforcing the messaging and trying to reduce your social contact in and around school.

Finally, I sincerely hope that this will be the last time school has to close and I have to write letters about reopening St Margaret Marys after a period of lockdown. School isn’t completely normal but it is open for everyone and long may that continue.

Many thanks for your understanding and patience with all of these matters.

Take care and stay safe.

M Aldred Head teacher

Fr S Ellis Chair of Governors.



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