



18th September 2020

Dear families,

We are grateful for your continued support, if we work together as a team then we will be able to keep the school open as best we can. If we do have a positive case of COVID-19 in school, then we share this information with you and we will follow the advice from Public Health England as to which bubbles we do need to close. Next week, we have a health and safety inspection to ensure that we have the bubbles as secure as we can.

Arrival and departure

Please remember to follow guidelines and stay more than 2 metres from people not in your household. It is vitally important that we keep to this due to the new guidelines in South Tyneside. Please remember to adhere to this when waiting outside of school. We would rather that you waited in the yard (when the gates are open) where it is easier to spread out. If you must wait outside the gates, then please stand away from the road railings so that people can safely pass. Try to stick to your allocated arrival and departure time as this will help us minimise activity in and around the school.

We are aware of an incident that occurred in the school yard between parents this week; please be assured that the staff and governors take matters like this seriously.

Year group	Drop off time	Collect time
Nursery	9:00-9:15	3:15-3:30
Reception	8:45-9:00	3:15
Year 1	8:45-9:00	3:15
Year 2	9:00-9:15	3:30
Year 3	9:00-9:15	3:30
Year 4	8:45-9:00	3:15
Year 5	9:00-9:15	3:30
Year 6	8:45-9:00	3:15

PE kits

Children now come to school in their PE kits on their allocated day and this has worked wonderfully well. I don't know why we didn't do it earlier! The children have a full PE lesson, as there is no wasted time getting the children changed. I am sure you can imagine how long it takes of a class of reception children to get changed.

The PE kit is navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt and a navy sweatshirt, plain hoodie or school jumper. I know that some children have a black kit and we don't expect you to go and buy new clothes so soon after buying this kit, but please replace them with navy when you can.

Children are not allowed to wear named sportswear. We do have some spare sports kit if you are unable to access an appropriate kit.

Flu Vaccine

I know that some of you have concerns about your children receiving the flu vaccine in case they show flu like symptoms afterwards, which may be like COVID-19 symptoms. I have spoken to both the nursing and vaccination teams and they have assured me that the symptoms are different. The flu vaccine is due to happen in school on November 11th 2020; following this date we will be aware that some of the children may have a slight sniffle, we will not be sending children home for cold like symptoms.





COVID-19 symptoms

A reminder that a cold and sneezing are not symptoms of COVID-19. The main symptoms are a continuous cough, high temperature and loss of smell and taste. If you are unsure about sending your child into school, then please phone the school office for advice.

Blended learning

Next week, we will begin placing work for the children on the school website- as we did during lock down. Please use this if your child is absent from school. You may also still have workbooks left from last academic year, which you can help your child to complete. Your child will bring a copy of all of their passwords home next week. They will also receive a copy of their timetable, you can use this in case your child cannot get into school.

If child cannot make it to school, you will be required to use IT to support your child's learning. If you are struggling to access a device at home, then please let us know as we may be able to support you. Please email homelearningsupport@stmarysjarrow.co.uk or speak to myself or the school office.

School dinners

The kitchen staff and dinner supervisors have worked very hard to ensure that your child is safe during the dinner time; we have separate dinner sittings for the bubbles and I am sure that you can imagine that this is quite an operation. We know that some children feel rushed to eat and we are constantly tweaking the system so that hopefully this doesn't happen.

We have had to change the days that year 1 and year 2 have hot dinners; this is due to different class sizes.

YEAR GROUP	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
YEAR 1	COLD	HOT	COLD	HOT	HOT
YEAR 2	HOT	COLD	HOT	COLD	HOT
YEAR 3	HOT	COLD	HOT	COLD	HOT
YEAR 4	HOT	COLD	HOT	COLD	HOT
YEAR 5	COLD	HOT	COLD	HOT	HOT
YEAR 6	COLD	HOT	COLD	HOT	HOT

Children in reception to year 2 are not allowed to bring in a packed lunch. They receive a free universal school meal and in the current situation, it reduces the amount of items that are brought in and out of school.

Children in year 3 to year 6, can bring in a packed lunch but it must be in a disposable bag. This reduces the amount of items that are brought between home and school and back, but it also ensures that areas can be cleaned thoroughly and that children are not moving across the school. Many schools have the children eating in classrooms and we have so far managed to avoid that as we wanted to keep things as normal as possible for the children.

Assemblies and Collective worship

We are unable to gather as a school; therefore, children are having daily class worship in their classes. They are planning class liturgies and celebrating together.

We have a group of children who are unable to complete their First Holy Communion programme, please keep them in your prayers and hopefully they will be able to celebrate the sacrament soon. Baptised children in the current year 4 class will hopefully be able to begin their journey soon. We will update you as soon as we know more.

Have a nice weekend.

Mrs Tumelty
Acting Head of School

