



St Mary's School Newsletter



25 August 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. I hope you are all well and have had a good holiday and enjoyed the lovely weather! I enjoyed meeting quite a few of you in the waves at St Ouen.

At the end of last term, I said I would write to you to confirm what we have in place and explain any changes to our routines. This is in response to the latest advice from Education, about keeping our school community safe from Coronavirus. Although throughout the island it may seem that life is pretty much back to normal, in schools we are in a very similar position to the end of last term, with some small changes.

Symptoms

If a child or member of staff has symptoms, or someone in their household has symptoms, they must not be in school, and parents must not bring them into school.

Symptoms may include:

- A new continuous cough and/or fever
- Headaches
- Tiredness
- Muscle ache
- Respiratory symptoms besides cough such as a sore throat, blocked or runny nose
- Gastro-intestinal symptoms (more common in children than adults)
- Loss of taste and smell

Pupils and staff with symptoms, or with anyone in their household with symptoms, must follow the isolation rules. They need to immediately isolate at home and call the helpdesk on 01534 445566 to arrange testing. They should follow the isolation guidance to determine when they can come back to school.

If you are arriving in Jersey you must follow the Government guidelines with regards to testing and isolation. Please refer to the gov.je website for the latest information.

Hygiene

We are continuing with our focus on good hygiene, which includes the washing of hands, use of hand sanitizer when appropriate, the frequent cleaning of desks, door handles and other touch points, etc. and the use and swift disposal of tissues. Please do keep an eye on your children's hands – they can get very dry after the washing and hand sanitizing, and they may need hand cream in the evenings. Please do not send in hand cream, as it can be a haven for germs and is better applied at home.

Bubbles

Each class forms what is called a 'bubble' to reduce the number of contacts each child has. This will consist of all the pupils in the class, excluding the adults, and within this bubble the children do not need to observe physical distancing. However, although children can be in contact with other children in their bubble, adults still have to maintain at least a 1m distance between themselves and children and other adults.

Bubbles will be taught in the same room and children will be using the same chair and table each day, and in KS2 they will help clean their desks with anti-bacterial wipes at key points during the day. (In Reception and KS1 this will be done by staff.) Each bubble will have their own toilet cubicles, and sinks.

Visitors in school

Visitors in school must be kept to an absolute minimum. The School Secretary will keep a paper copy/ register of anyone who enters the school, this includes contact details. This is so that visitors can be contacted by Track and Trace if necessary, and the information will be kept securely and destroyed after six weeks.

Parents in school

When dropping off/picking up, parents will be asked to adhere to strict physical distancing and not enter the school premises unless invited. Parents are asked to either phone or email the school office or class teacher if they wish to discuss something or they wish to pass a message onto school. If a parent comes into school for something essential, they must call first and then speak to the school secretary through her window at the current school entrance (at the back of the school.)

Morning drop off

We have 2 drop off points: firstly, the Parish Hall Car Park for KS2 and secondly, the Community Centre Car Park for Reception and KS1.

Children may be dropped off in a car, or if they walk/cycle they must meet their teacher or a member of staff at their drop off point. They have designated drop off times – please make sure you drop off in the right place and at the right time.

Please prime your children so that they have everything they need with them and help them limit the number of things they are carrying. E.g. if they have a jumper and/or coat they should be wearing them, so that their hands are free for their water bottle and lunchbox. **At present, children do not need book bags or rucksacks.** This may change, and we will inform you when it does.

Your child should be ready to get out of the car quickly, so that traffic does not build up out onto the road, and cause congestion. If your Year 1 child is struggling with this, please park up and bring your child to the drop off point, however, you will not be able to linger.

The children will be directed by their teacher or another member of staff where to meet their class, and the children will go into school and wash their hands before starting their morning routine.

Reception parents are asked to park and bring their children to the green gate. (This will be explained to you further during your child's induction sessions.) We do ask that you reduce the number of people coming to collect the children – only one adult per family at the gate, please.

Pick up

We have 2 pick up points: firstly, the Parish Hall Car Park for KS2 and secondly, the Community Centre Car Park for Reception and KS1.

Reception parents are asked to meet their children at the green gate at 2:45p.m – there will be markings on the path to help with 1m physical distancing. All other children will leave from their designated pick up points.

At both drop off and pick up please do help us out by standing a metre apart. We have to adhere to government guidelines. Thank you.

Years 1 and 2 will wait in the Community Centre Car Park. As we can maintain a 2m distance between classes, we can have pick up from 3:00-3:15 as usual for both classes. If you are walking/cycling you can meet your child in this area.

Years 3-6 will wait in the Parish Hall car park but will be spread out at different times.

	Drop off times	Pick up times
Reception	8:30-8:45 – Park and bring children to green gate*	2:45-3:00 – Park and pick up from green gate.

Year 1	8:40 – Community Centre	3:00 – Community Centre
Year 2	8:30 – Community Centre	3:00 – Community Centre
Year 3	8:30 – Parish Hall	3:00 – Parish Hall
Year 4	8:30 – Parish Hall	3:00 – Parish Hall
Year 5	8:40 - Parish Hall	3:10 – Parish Hall
Year 6	8:40 – Parish Hall	3:10 – Parish Hall

*This is after the induction weeks.

If you have siblings due to be dropped off at different times they can be dropped off at the same time (whichever is earliest) BUT they must be dropped off at their own drop off point. Similarly, for pick up, children can be picked up at the same time as their siblings, from their own drop off points AT THE LATER TIME. There is a small window of time for each drop off and pick up to allow parents to be in the right place at the right time.

E.g. if you have a child in Year 1 and in Year 4 they may both be dropped off at 8:30 – the Year 1 child at the Community Centre, and Year 4 at the Parish Hall car park. If you have a child in Year 2 and Year 4 they may both be picked up at 3:10 from their respective pick up points.

This is all intended to ensure that we don't have a build up of people, and to ensure that traffic flows smoothly and quickly. We will review this frequently, and if it's not working we will change it.

Uniform/Clothing

We will be asking you to send your children into school wearing school uniform. We ask that they come in clean clothes every day. As you don't all have endless uniform, I understand that there may be times when you cannot get uniform washed in time. On those days, please send your child in wearing sensible non-uniform. These are unusual times, and we need to be flexible. (Not so flexible that we accept hot pants and crop tops, though!)

Administering first aid and intimate care

When a child requires First Aid and other essential care, and it is not possible for the child to administer it themselves, under supervision of an adult, a staff member may get closer to the child than 1m in order to help them. In these cases staff will wear normal PPE for managing First Aid e.g. gloves, plastic apron, etc.

Breakfast Club

We can offer Breakfast Club from Monday 7th September. Things will be a little different until we have a spare room that we can use to keep groups of children in their class bubbles. Places will need to be booked a week in advance, and you will be asked to choose your child's breakfast from a number of options. I hope that we can go back to our normal system in October, as we should be able to use the Nursery room once Years 5 and 6 are in their new rooms. I will let you know of any changes as soon as I can.

We ask for your support and cooperation in carrying out all these routines and systems. Whilst I appreciate they are prescriptive, I am being guided by CYPES and our Risk Assessments and we must ensure that we follow them.

On a completely separate note, please can I remind you all not to include nut products in children's lunches (including e.g. Nutella) we have a number of children with nut allergies.

We are all looking forward to seeing you next Thursday.

Kind regards,

Maria Stegenwalner