

Our Ref
Your Ref
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Date: August 8, 2020



Mr. Francis McIntyre
Head Teacher
Education and Families
St Mary's Primary School
Chapel Street
Cleland
Motherwell
ML1 5QX

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to St Mary's. The school will look and feel different since the children last attended. This will include hand sanitisers and signage to reinforce the one way, keep left system.

I am aware there are a number of questions you may have in relation to the children returning. I hope the information below addresses these questions. The information below comes from guidance from the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council. Please be aware that this is an ever changing situation, refer to our Twitter account and emails for any changes. Also refer to North Lanarkshire's dedicated website for the most up to date information:

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schoolplans>

You will receive a Newsletter which will give further information of how St Mary's will function when the children return.

In the meantime I would like to share some information which should support you in preparing for your child to return.

I recently sent an email with a letter from North Lanarkshire Council which shows the day your child will return to St Mary's. If you haven't received the email please let me know.

Details include:

Tuesday 11th August

Inservice day for staff, no pupils should attend.

Wednesday 12th August

P2 and P3 should arrive at 9am

P1 pupils should arrive between 9:20 and 9:30. A separate letter has been posted to parents of P1 pupils.

Thursday 13th August

P1, P4, P5, P6 and P7 should arrive at school at 9 am

During these days staff will show pupils where they should line up and the areas they should use at playtime and lunch time.

Friday 14th August

All pupils should attend school.

There will be a slightly staggered day for the children but we will try and keep the times as close to normal as possible.

The children who travel by bus and P1, P2 and P3 should arrive at school at 8:45 and will be brought into school by the staff at approximately 8:50 am.

P4 to P7 should arrive at school at 8:55 am and will be brought into school at 9 am. If P4 to P7 pupils have siblings in P1 to P3 they can arrive at the same time but will have to wait in their allocated area until it is their time to enter the school.

General Points

- When the children return they should wear full school uniform.
- Children can bring a school bag. Ideally the bag will be able to hold your child's water bottle, lunch box and have space to hold spare clothing ie if child wants to remove a jumper it can be stored within their bag. Their bag will be stored under their seat.
- Children should not bring personal belongings (pencil cases/stationary/toys etc). All resources the children need will be supplied by the school.

- A one way system will operate within the school, all children will enter through the door at the far side of the building and exit through the main entrance.
 - Can I ask that parents do not park or congregate on Chapel Street. Please use the car park across from the church and allow the children to walk to school.
 - There will be 3 entrances pupils can enter and exit the school grounds.
 1. The nursery gate and walk round the back of the school
 2. The main gate
 3. The gate at the corner of the yard.
- Pupils should use the first entrance they come to and make their way to their allocated area.
- Children should not arrive at school until 8:45 am as there will be no adults in the yard to supervise until this time.
 - Breakfast club will run as normal.
 - Parents are not permitted to enter the school grounds. If you need to speak to a member of staff please call the school to make an appointment where we will take your details to support Test and Protect arrangements.

Lunches

There will be designated entrance and exit points in the dining hall and we will stagger times the children will go for lunch.

Menu choices will be reduced. However, there will always be a mixture of packed lunches and hot food option available.

If you do not have an IPay Impact account please set one up so that the children do not need to bring cash into the school. To set up an account for the cashless system please click on link below:

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=22284>

Transport

School transport will be available as normal to eligible pupils. Children should wash hands before going on transport and wash when entering the school.

Scottish Government guidance states that school transport should be treated as an extension of school, ie, that no physical distancing is required. You may wish to encourage your child to walk or cycle to school in keeping with the promotion of active travel.

Safety

Safety will always be the priority as we return to school.

It's very important that nobody attends school if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus (a new cough, a fever, or a change in or loss of taste or smell).

If your child has any symptoms they must immediately self-isolate and book a test via the NHS Inform website. You must also inform the school immediately if they have symptoms and of the result of any test.

Although children do not need to social distance the adults in the school do, this includes adult to adult and adult to child. Please take some time to explain this to your child.

Children will, as far as possible be kept in the same groups for the duration of the school day, ie their own class at breaks and lunch.

If you have any issues I can help with please do not hesitate in contacting me at ht@st-marys-motherwell.n-lanark.sch.uk

Yours Sincerely

Francis McIntyre

Francis McIntyre (Head Teacher)