



The Mary Russell School Guide for Going Back to School – Parents & Families

This guide is an aid to support families with some of the key questions for children returning to school after the summer break. This guide is not exhaustive and just provides some key pieces of information which might be helpful. More information is available in the FAQs on the Council's website.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are absolutely delighted to be able to welcome our children back from Wednesday 12th August. All pupils will be in school on a full time basis by Thursday 13th August meaning there is no need for blended learning arrangements to be in place at this time. We would like to wish an especially warm welcome to the families who join us for the first time, in our P1, S1 and across the school. We look forward to getting to know you in the year ahead.






Please be assured that the safety, health & well-being of our pupils, staff & families will be our primary focus as we recognise the challenges faced by many since the closure of schools.

As communicated by Renfrewshire Council new arrangements are as follows:




- Monday and Tuesday 10 & 11 of August will now be in-service days for school staff. Pupils will return from Wednesday 12th August on a phased basis
- Wednesday 12 August only
All primary children return to MRS (9am-3.15pm)
- From Thursday 13 August
S1 to S6 return to MRS(9am-3.25pm)

Transport


Parental/Carer Drop off / Pick-ups

-  One parent/carers will be permitted to drop off/collect their child from the playground.
-  There will be a designated area for this.
-  During pickup at the end of the day, please do not arrive early and spend time around the school.
-  Please remember to adhere to social distancing. Parent/Carer and pupils should exit the playground swiftly. Please do not congregate.
-  No other parents/carers should enter the school grounds.

School Buses – Drop off/Pick-up


-  There will be staggered start and dismissal times for each department within the school – Primary, Secondary & Step-Unit – to minimise congestion and maximise pupil safety.
-  Pupils will be met by a member of staff each day and escorted to their classrooms.
-  At the end of the school day pupils will be dismissed and taken to their buses at the allocated time.

Public Transport (Independent Travelers)

-  For pupils using public transport to get to school, they will be required to adhere to the rules on travel, including the mandatory requirement to wear a face covering at all times.

SCHOOL LUNCHES






Renfrewshire Council: "We will initially provide packed lunches for all children entitled to a free school meal and for those who wish to buy one. Each school will decide the best way to distribute these. This will reduce the number of pupils gathering to queue for lunch. However, as schools develop their own systems and protocols, they will then be able to move to hot lunches, hopefully at the start of September, in a manner that suits them best".

-  Lunch times will be staggered initially.



Free School Meals

-  All P1-P3s and those entitled to free school meals will continue to receive these in school.



Packed Lunches

-  Pupils will be able to continue to bring in their own food to eat in school if they wish to do so.
-  We encourage healthy eating and snacks.
-  You will be aware of the possibility of children being allergic to nuts and nut products, which in severe cases can be fatal. In light of this, please could I ask that children do not bring nuts and nut products for either their lunch or snack.
-  Please could we ask that children do not bring fizzy or sugary drinks to school and that sweets and chocolates are limited? Please also avoid bottles or cans of juice.
-  Children can bring in their own water bottles.

Water Coolers

-  Water coolers will be available for pupils to use and will be regularly cleaned throughout the day.
-  Pupils should look to practice good hand hygiene before and after use of the coolers.



UNIFORM

-  There are no additional requirements for extra cleaning of school uniforms so pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform as normal. If you have any difficulty with this then you can contact the school to discuss.
-  However, on the days they have PE they should come prepared in appropriate clothing suitable for outdoor learning and physical activity outdoors. Please be mindful of the complexities of outdoor learning and the Scottish weather!


PE Changing Facilities



-  As stated above, currently pupils will not be changing for P.E. PE classes will take place outdoors initially

Outdoor Learning







-  There is less risk of transmission in outdoor spaces and therefore there will be a greater emphasis on the use of the outdoors for learning (weather and clothing permitting).
-  Teachers will be looking at how best to use the outdoor spaces available in the school.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING




-  In line with government guidance, no physical distancing is required between children in schools. However, MRS will put measures in place to encourage young people, to physically distance where possible.

-  There will be physical distancing between adults, and where possible between adults and pupils - although clearly this will be harder to manage with younger primary pupils.
-  Where staff cannot keep a two-metre distance and are interacting face-to-face for a sustained period (such as for 15 minutes or more), they may choose to wear face covering. Anyone who wants to can wear a covering.




ADVICE ON HAND HYGIENE

-  Please ensure your child washes their hands before they leave each morning, and then when they arrive back home.
-  When pupils come into school, they will wash their hands before they settle into the classroom or learning space.
-  Hand washing will be encouraged throughout the day.
-  Pupils will also be advised to wash hands before and after eating and when going to the toilet, and to use an elbow or tissue to cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
-  Handwash and hand sanitiser will be provided but pupils can bring their own if they like.
-  Additional day cleaning staff will be deployed in schools to support cleaning throughout the school day. This is in addition to the regular school cleaning teams.



GROUPS and CLASSES

-  To reduce any risks, we will minimise the mixing of pupils in different classes and groups where possible.
-  Secondary classes will be based in individual base classrooms with teachers moving each period rather than pupils.
-  Step-Unit classes will move to their normal timetable arrangements as soon as practical.



SCHOOL BAGS & EQUIPMENT

-  Pupils are not required to bring any school equipment with them at this time.
-  Each pupil will be provided with learning packs containing all necessary resources.
-  Appropriate cleaning materials will be supplied to pupils and staff to enable twice daily wipes downs of learning packs.


FACE COVERINGS

-  As stated, pupils will be able to wear a face covering if they wish to do so, and we appreciate that this may make some pupils feel more comfortable.
-  If pupils wish to wear a covering, they should bring this to school with them.


MEDICATION

-  Parents should notify the school of any medical requirements, allergies or health concerns that their child may have.
-  In cases where it is necessary that the child receives medication during school hours, parents should contact the school to make appropriate arrangements.


ASSEMBLIES & GATHERINGS


-  Schools will be limiting big gatherings of pupils as part of the initial steps to reopen.

INTERVALS & LUNCHES

-  Different classes will have different interval / lunch times to reduce the number of pupils in the playground at any one time and reduce the mixing of different groups of pupils.


ONE WAY SYSTEM


 We have introduced a one way systems to reduce congestion in corridors.

 All pupils will be given an induction on their return to school to support them with the changes in timings and one way systems.


What if my child has COVID symptoms?


Out of School

 Any child displaying symptoms when not at school should not attend school. You should remain at home and follow the guidance on [NHS Inform](#) and [Test and Protect](#).


 If your child has been in school, you should advise the school that your child is displaying symptoms and that they will be off school to follow the guidance around testing and isolation, if necessary.

In School


 If your child develops symptoms when in school, you will be requested to collect them as soon as possible and take them home.


 You should, as above, follow the guidance on [NHS Inform](#) and [Test and Protect](#).


Family Members

 If someone in the household starts displaying symptoms, your family should self-isolate and follow the guidance on [NHS Inform](#). You should advise the school of your child's absence and the reason for this absence


What if there is an outbreak?

 An outbreak of COVID is where there are 2 or more cases within a school in a 14 day period. This will be monitored closely to inform the NHS if appropriate.


 In the event of an outbreak, Renfrewshire Council will be led by and work closely with the NHS Health Protection Team to determine the actions required to protect the health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff in the school.

 Test and Protect Contact Tracers will be in touch with those deemed to have been close contacts of those who have tested positive and will provide advice on the need to self-isolate or take any additional steps, as set out in the guidance.

School Closure

 In the unlikely event of a partial or whole school closure, each school has detailed contingency arrangements in place and will work with pupils to ensure that learning is able to continue out of school.

Shielding and Vulnerable Pupils

 In the event of an outbreak, the school will be in touch to discuss whether any additional precautions may have to be taken to support your child. This will include revising any risk assessments or supporting out of school learning. This will be undertaken on a case by case basis.

If you still have concerns or feel there is something you wish to speak to a senior manager about then please contact the Depute Head Teacher for your child's stage. We understand the last few months haven't been easy and thank you for your patience.

We look forward to welcoming all our children back next week to our new normal.

Kind Regards,

Mary Russell School

Senior Management Team