

Mary Russell School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Julie McCallum

10 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of S1-S6 pupils

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our secondary aged pupils back to school next week and seeing everyone again. We understand the past few months haven't been easy and our thanks go to you and your children for your patience and understanding.

I know that you will be keen hear about our arrangements for you child for the next few weeks until the Easter break and I am now able to share that with you. To keep everyone safe we will be offering a model of blended learning – with pupils learning in school on some days and at home on others. You may remember this was our intention back in August. Fortunately we did not need to use the model then, however we do now!

From next week half our secondary pupils (Group 1) will attend on a Monday and Tuesday, and the other half (Group 2) on a Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays teachers will have their contractual non-class contact time. School hubs will operate for the children of key workers on the days they are not in school. Our pastoral team will contact you if this applies to your child.

Your child will be in **Group 2** and will attend on **Thurs/Fri for the next 2 weeks from Mon 15 March. During the last week of term they should attend on Wed 31 March & Thurs 1 April.**

Our aim is to provide the best possible learning experience in school for our young people while taking every precaution to ensure the safety of pupils and staff, in line with government advice. We will ensure 2 metre social distancing is maintained as much as possible and will do this through reduced class sizes. This means not all pupils can be in school at the same time. There will also be an expectation that all secondary aged pupils (S1-6) will wear face coverings in class as well as around the school and on school transport.

Your child will also be offered the opportunity to participate in lateral flow at-home covid testing. S4-6 pupils are being offered this right now and S1-3 pupils will be included after the Easter break.

The school day will run as normal from 9am to 3.30pm. To ensure we maintain physical distancing at the start and end of the day, we will stagger start and finish times for buses arriving and departing. Bus contractors are aware of the days your child has been allocated to attend school.

Some parents have asked about the wearing of school uniform on return to school. While we encourage the wearing of our school uniform as it gives our pupils a sense of identity, we do recognise the need to be more relaxed in our approach to school uniform until the Easter break.

Once again, we thank you for your patience during these difficult months and we look forward to seeing our pupils back in school next week.

Take care, keep safe and stay healthy

Julie

Julie McCallum
Head Teacher

Director of Children's Services – Steven Quinn