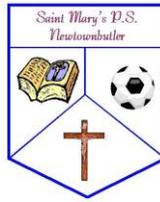


# ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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17th August 20

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we approach the beginning of our new school year. Thankfully the Minister has announced a further relaxation to the social distancing measures required within primary school settings. While this means that we can now go ahead and allow all children to return at the beginning of the term, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to follow all PHA guidance and endeavour to mitigate the risk of the Covid-19 virus within our school through a range of safety measures. We will begin the year with induction days to allow our children to settle back into school and get used to our new policies and procedures. I have outlined how we will begin the new term, including key dates and regulations.

School return dates -

## **Week Beginning Monday 24th August:**

- Primary 7: Children will return full-time from Monday 24th August. The school kitchen will not be operational, therefore pupils should bring a packed lunch in a disposable bag. Individual start and finish times are posted on the class Seesaw page.
- Primary 1: Children will have their induction morning as outlined in the P1 Seesaw page.

## **Week Beginning Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September:**

- Primary 1-6 children will come to school for induction on either Tuesday and Wednesday or Thursday and Friday of that week, as outlined in the class Seesaw post. After the first week of induction days, pupils will be expected to attend school full-time.

Each family has been given drop off and collection times for arriving by car or foot. If your child is travelling by bus, we will expect them at the bus arrival time. It is very important that parents do not linger at the school gate, so that there is lots of space for pupils to enter at a safe social distance for all.



In keeping with DE guidance, parents will not be permitted beyond the school gate other than in exceptional circumstances and by prior appointment only. Communication with school will be primarily via email or telephone. Important information will be posted on the website and teachers will continue to post on the class Seesaw page.

There will be no Breakfast or After School Club at least the month of September. Fruit will not be available to purchase from the kitchen.

I will send out further important information over the coming days, including additional COVID safety procedures and details of a new online payment system.

I ask that prior to your child's return to school, you make a contingency plan in preparation for the possibility that they may need to be collected at very short notice if they display symptoms or if someone from within their bubble tests positive for COVID 19. Please ensure that the school has up to date telephone and email contacts for all relevant people.

If your child or a member of the immediate family received a pause shielding letter and you feel that their needs should be risk assessed, then please contact the school to discuss the medical recommendations which have been made in advance of their return.

I look forward to welcoming the children back to school and assure that with your help, we will do our best to ensure that the school is kept as safe and COVID free as possible.

P Kelly

Principal

