



St Mary & St Michael  
Catholic Primary School  
Sutton Street Commercial Road E1 0BD

*Learning together hand in hand with our friend Jesus.*

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**School Opening in September**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week the government issued guidance on what regulations/expectations would be in force to govern how schools should open up to all pupils in September.

**Starting dates for pupils September 2020**

Year 1 - 6	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020
Reception	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Nursery	from Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 – staggered start

Our first priority now and always is the safety of our children. We have been finalising what we think will work best for our school setting and the children. This letter explains some of the ways we will be working in order to keep your children as safe as possible.

**Reducing the risk of infected persons coming into school**

Government guidance says schools are not to temperature scan children and that school staff are not required to wear PPE for teaching.

We will send home any member of staff or child who appears to be unwell or is displaying relevant symptoms. It is essential that parents ensure we have up to date contact details.

**However, we rely on parents and our families to behave sensibly and to protect their own children and other people's children by keeping their child at home if unwell, being tested for Covid 19 and or self-isolating, if that is appropriate, following current government advice** (see Tower Hamlets information re testing at the end of this letter).

Parents and visitors will not be permitted in the school building unless by appointment.

**Reduce the risk to children at points where they are entering and exiting school**

To avoid having large gatherings of parents at the beginning and end of the day, we are implementing the following:

***Start of the day***

- A one-way system will operate.
- Parents and children should enter via the main playground gate and children will proceed straight to class.
- The main playground gate will be open from 8:40am – 9am
- Only ONE parent/adult/sibling should bring their child to school and we ask that you respect social distancing by keeping 1 metre apart from other parents and their children. We have put markings on the playground to help adults and children with this.
- 1B, 1D, 2D, Reception and Nursery will enter via the classroom door from the playground.
- 2F, 5G & 5W use the main playground gate and then will enter school building via the side entrance – signs and staff will direct children



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- 3A, 3F, 4B, 4C, 6H and 6K will enter via the main playground door.

Once you have dropped your child at school, parents should leave the playground immediately via the side of the church following the one-way system.

***End of the day***

In order to avoid congestion at the school gate, in school and on the playground, we will have to stagger the timings at the end of the day. I appreciate this is not ideal if you have children in different year groups, but at the moment we need to do this so that all the classes who are upstairs are not leaving the building at the same time.

**3:10pm** - Y1, Y4, Y5

**3:20pm** - Y2, Y6,

**3:30pm** - EYFS, Y3

**Year group bubble and class bubbles**

The DfE have not set a specific upper limit on the size of a 'bubble'. In order to deliver a full curriculum and operate effectively in September, the children will be in year group bubbles. For the majority of the time they will remain in their class bubble, but will be in year group bubbles at lunch and break times and mixed for small group work eg phonics

**Break and Lunchtime**

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered. If more than one year group is on the playground, they will be allocated a specific area. Each year group has their own box of play equipment which is cleaned after use. Contact sports are not permitted and there will be no swimming lessons in the autumn term.

During lunch time kitchen staff will continue to provide a school lunch. All meals will be cooked in the school kitchen but in order to ensure social distancing between year groups, we will be using our hall and the parish hall for eating.

Children are not permitted to use the climbing frame or gym equipment before or after school.

The water fountains on the playground have been turned off so please send your child in with their water bottle every day.

**Reduce the risk to children during lessons**

The DFE recognises that younger children cannot maintain social distancing and that the emphasis should be on keeping children in consistent groups. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be set up in much the same way as previously, with some adaptations including frequent washing or a rotation of shared equipment.

Year 2 – Year 6 classrooms will be rearranged so that all children are facing forwards rather than facing inwards towards each other in group settings. All possible ventilation, such as opening windows and doors, will be used to increase air flow. All children will be provided with an individual pencil case containing pens and pencils, as currently it is recommended that children do not share frequently used items.

Any items that are shared eg books and art equipment will be cleaned after use or left for 24 – 72 hours (depending on the type of equipment) before being used again.



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The only items children need to bring in to school will be their water bottle, reading book and if not school dinners their packed lunch box.

**Handwashing and good respiratory hygiene**

A key factor in reducing the spread of the virus is handwashing and when you cough or sneeze to follow 'catch it, bin it, kill it.'

All children will wash their hands frequently throughout the day for 20 seconds. At a minimum they will wash their hands:

- When they come in
- Before and after eating
- Before they go home
- After they use the toilet
- After coughing/sneezing

Most of the time children will wash their hands with soap and water but we also have hand sanitiser dispensers in every class room and in the school hall and entrances.

Every class has a sink, as do all the toilets and we have also installed a trough sink with 8 taps on the playground. Above all the sinks are posters reminding children how to wash their hands properly. 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' posters are displayed in all rooms. There are tissues in every classroom. If parents can provide their child with pocket size packet of tissues, this would be very helpful.

**Uniform**

In September children will come back in full school uniform. This can be our summer uniform or our winter uniform. From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October all children will need to be in their winter uniform.

In order to minimise items being brought in from home, children will not be allowed to bring in trainers to change in to at break time. However, from September they have the option of wearing plain black trainers or black school shoes.

Yes	NO
	

**PE Kit**

To begin with we ask that your child's PE kit is not brought in to school. When the children return we will inform you which day they will have their PE lesson and on that day they may come to school in their PE kit.



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**Reduce the risk to children in the journey to and from school**

Parents are encouraged where possible to avoid using public transport during peak times and to walk, cycle or scooter to school.

**Cleaning**

In addition to all areas being thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis, there are three additional cleaning times during the school day with a focus on frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, bannisters, toilets, sinks, taps etc. Every class also has disinfectant spray for wiping down tables and chairs at regular intervals.

This has been a very challenging time for teachers, parents and children and I have nothing but thanks and praise for the way that all have responded. We are looking forward to all the children returning in September.

Our current risk assessment is available on our school website and once the updated version for opening in September has been approved by Tower Hamlets Health and Safety, I will put this on the website.

Until then do please keep safe and keep well.

Rachel Mahon

**Book a Covid-19 test if you have symptoms**



NHS Test and Trace is a national programme working to make sure that anyone who develops Covid-19 symptoms can be tested quickly. It also helps trace recent contacts of anyone who tests positive and if necessary, notify them so that they can stay at home and help stop the spread of the virus.

It is an essential feature of efforts to keep Tower Hamlets safe and drive down the rates of infection and

transmission.

Mobile testing units are operating in the borough and are another way to get tested for coronavirus, alongside ordering a home testing kit. An additional mobile unit will be back near Canary Wharf on Friday 17 July.