



# St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

St. Vincent Street, Marylebone W1U 4DF

Headteacher: Miss M. Coleman

Tel: 020 3146 0743 email: [office@stvincentsprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@stvincentsprimary.org.uk)

web: [www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk](http://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear parents and carers,

## RETURN TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2021

This letter explains the plan for the return to school for St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School for the 2021-22 academic year.

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Step 4 marked a new phase in the response to the pandemic. Moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day to day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID -19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption children's education-particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and most adults have now had the opportunity for two doses of the vaccine.

The information provided is specific to St. Vincent's and must be read alongside the government guidance for parents which provides advice that applies to all schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The priority for school is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils, with proportionate control measures in place.

### Control Measures

We will:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated using the school ventilation system as well as having doors and window open where possible
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

### Close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case in all education and childcare sectors

This is a significant change and it is important that all families understand this.

From Monday 16 August unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace (not the school) that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend school as usual.

Children and young people who attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they test positive or develop symptoms.

As a school we will have a Contingency Plan in place in case the number of positive cases substantially increases. This is available on the school website, on our Risk Assessment document.



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## Coronavirus Symptoms

Children must not attend school if they have symptoms of coronavirus. We will also take the temperature of, and send home immediately, any child showing sign of any other illness and expect parents to fully support this as per the Home School Agreement. Please check your child daily for symptoms before bringing them to school.

The symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are usually mild, but some people can become very unwell.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

On 30th June Public Health England advised that the symptoms of the new Delta variant are:

- headache
- sore throat
- runny nose
- fever

These symptoms present as a common cold so schools have been advised to have a low threshold of suspicion for cases.

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. Use the online coronavirus service if you have any of these symptoms or dial 119.

## Bubbles

Schools no longer need to operate Bubbles. However for the first half term, at least, we will continue to limit whole school interaction, until we are confident that the transmission of the virus has eased.

## Attendance

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term and the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

Please be aware that absences during term time will not be authorised unless there is a health reason so please book appointments, trips away etc outside of school hours.

If you are travelling abroad during the school holiday period please ensure that the appropriate quarantine periods are included within your planning and do not necessitate pupils missing school.



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## Return to school dates and times for each class

Date	Year Group	Soft Start	Finish Time	Exit (Please see PPT on website for photos)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Reception	8:30-8:55	15:05	Double door
	Year 1	8:30-8:55	15:05	Down door
	Year 2	8:30-8:55	15:05	Down door
	Year 3	8:30-8:55	15:15	Down door
	Year 4	8:30-8:55	15:15	Down door
	Year 5	8:30-8:55	15:15	Double door
	Year 6	8:30-8:55	15:15	Double doors
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> –Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery Welcome Meetings			
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery siblings	9:00	12:00 or 15:05	Double doors
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	Staggered return of Nursery		12:00 or 15:05	Double doors

## Entrance/ Start of Day

We will continue to start the school day with a soft start. Families may arrive at school between will begin at between 8:30 and 8:55a.m. as works best for the parents, but no later than this. Children will be able to wait in their classroom and complete quiet supervised activities, such as quiet reading, finishing work or chatting with friends, until the start of the formal day at 8:55 prompt. We hope this will support families who need to get to work and families with more than one child at the school, whilst maintaining the staggered approach which was very successful last year.

Miss Coleman, Mrs Duffy or Miss Carruthers will be at the entrance to welcome pupils and to administer hand sanitiser for children to apply before entering the premises.

From 6<sup>th</sup> September there will be a Breakfast Club starting at 8:00, for a small charge. Details of this will be sent separately.

## Exit/ End of Day

The end of the day will be staggered to avoid congestion, following the times detailed above. Class Teachers will bring their classes to the designated door and call children when their parent/carer has been identified. Hand sanitiser will be applied before children leave the school premises.

From 6<sup>th</sup> September there will be an After School Care Club until 17:15, for a small charge. Details of this will be sent separately.

## School Meals

Our catering company Harrison will continue to provide cooked, hot meals. Lunch will be eaten in the hall with the tables wiped down afterwards. The menu is available on the school website. From September the price of a school lunch will be £2.40 per day. We will need a clear commitment to either school lunch or packed lunch from home. If you decide to change, the school must be given two weeks' notice in writing.

## Curriculum

We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum that will continue to include a focus on mental health and wellbeing. We will also have regular reminders of the importance of good hygiene such a hand washing. More information about the curriculum, including timetables and the arrangements for Homework, will be provided at the Meet the Teacher sessions. This will also be posted on the



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Class Page of the school website. We will continue to use Google Classroom for Homework and Remote Learning. Remote Learning will be posted weekly in the event that anyone has to isolate.

## Extra-curricular activities

After school clubs run by external providers, who comply with the school Visitors Agreement, will resume shortly and a separate newsletter will be sent home with the details.

We are looking forward to resuming educational visits and are hopeful that we will be able to start welcoming parents who comply with the school Visitors Agreement back onto the premises to watch assemblies. However we will be carefully planning these activities with detailed risk assessments and will take our time to ensure they can operate safely.

We will continue to use the school website to celebrate learning and events with many photos and videos so we can still share these positive experiences if you are unable to join us in person.

## Uniform

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform. Please check the school website for the expectations. To support families, we will be holding regular second hand uniform sales. Please can you ensure that all items are labelled and that clothing is washed regularly? Children are to bring their school bag to school. They also need their own water bottle (which we will refill as needed) and a packed lunch if you choose not to have the cooked lunch provided by the school catering team.

## Physical Organisation

We will be operating a one-way system on the staircases. There will be carefully organised timetables with a soft start, staggered breaks and finish times.

## Visitors

Visitors will be welcomed to the school building once they agree to our Visitor Agreement. If parents wish to communicate with the school, and it is not necessary for this to be in person, please email the school office [office@stvincentsprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@stvincentsprimary.org.uk) or telephone 020 3146 0743.

## Communication

I will continue to email parents with updates as needed, as well as regularly updating the school website with the latest guidance and news. Monthly newsletters will also continue. In September, you will receive a revised Home School Agreement. You will also be invited to attend a Meet the Teacher session for your child's class where you will be provided with more information specific to your child's year group.

Please note that all arrangements are subject to change as the situation evolves and as the government issue updated advice. All our decisions have been made with the health and safety of pupils and staff as the priority, and with the aim of keeping our school open for all pupils.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this time. Thank you also for your generous gifts and thoughtful messages to myself and the team at the end of term– we really appreciated your kind words.

We are looking forward to welcoming back the children and seeing you next week. Until then, I wish you a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

*M. Coleman,*

Headteacher



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