



# 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 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

## FULL RE-OPENING OF SCHOOL 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021

Thank you once again for your support with remote learning during the period of restricted opening for schools. We are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school and for our St. Vincent's family to be back together again.

Thank you all for keeping your children to the usual school routine, whether remotely or by attending the Hub. This consistency, combined with the fact that the arrangements will be very similar to those of the Autumn Term, should help with the transition back to school.

This letter confirms the arrangements for the full reopening of St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School. 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. We will continue to do all we can to keep our school family safe and to avoid the need to close a bubble, and, as always, we will rely on your support.

### Entrance/ Start of Day

Once again we will be working with a soft start and families may come to school any time between 8:00 and 8:55a.m., as works best for the parents. During this time a light breakfast (fruit and cereal bar) can be provided if needed, for a small charge. Children will be able to wait with their bubble 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. 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 advised by the DfE guidance. 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. Parents will not be allowed beyond this point and we hope that all parents will support us by wearing face coverings, adhering to social distancing and leaving the vicinity immediately.

### Exit/ End of Day

The end of the day will be staggered to avoid congestion. 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. Miss Coleman, Mrs Duffy or Miss Carruthers will be at the exits to ensure social distancing and as an additional safety precaution.

- 14:55 EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Double doors
- 15:05 KS1 (1&2) Double doors
- 15:15 LKS2 (3&4) Down Doors
- 15:15 UKS2 (5&6) Double doors

We hope that all parents will support us by wearing face coverings, adhering to social distancing and being punctual for collection. This means not coming up to the school until your allocated time, even if you are early, and also not being late. Once children have been collected they must leave the vicinity immediately. We appreciate that siblings may be in different bubbles and this make the collection time longer but there is no way to avoid this and keep the bubbles separate.

### Bubbles

All children and staff will continue be assigned a 'bubble' comprising of two year groups who share the staff team, resources and learning spaces. A bubble is a safe teaching and learning space with no more than 60 pupils. Bubbles are independent of each other. Bubbles do not share learning spaces or playtimes with other bubbles. Bubbles are our way of ensuring there



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is some form of social distancing across the school. Whilst we will always try to ensure the upmost safety for our children and staff, we cannot guarantee social distancing within the bubble. Therefore we insist that hygiene and thorough cleaning take the upmost priority within the bubble and within the school as a whole. Maintaining distinct groups or bubbles that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible. We hope that parents will support us to maintain the bubbles by not mixing with other households and also by limiting the number of childcare providers they use.

## 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 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and the usual rules on school attendance will apply. If your child has a health need and has been advised to shield, it is important that this is discussed with the school and the arrangements for online learning agreed. The school will liaise with the appropriate health professionals and comply with their advice. The school will also monitor engagement with the online learning provided as per the guidance. If you have been overseas you will need to email the school office to provide details of the date of return and to confirm that you have complied with the quarantine requirements for that country, in advance of the return to school.

We have been asked to advise parents to only use public transport where necessary, and to encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so. However, given our central London location we do appreciate this is not always possible.

## Coronavirus Symptoms

Children must not attend school if they or a member of their household has 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. Please check your child daily for symptoms before bringing them to school.

## School Meals

We will continue to provide cooked, hot meals. Lunch will be eaten in the hall with the tables wiped down afterwards. We are currently working on the menu and will share this with you via the website.

## 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 social distancing and the importance of good hygiene such as hand washing. Homework will resume from 10<sup>th</sup> March and we will continue to use Google Classrooms for this.

## Extra-curricular activities

Unfortunately we will not be able to offer any after school extra-curricular activities such as afterschool activity clubs or trips. This will be reviewed at Easter. Whole school assemblies will continue to be virtual. Although pupils will continue to participate in collective worship, unfortunately parents will not be able to join us in person until further notice. We will use the website to celebrate events with many photos and videos so we can still share these positive experiences.



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## Childcare

To support child care arrangements and to further stagger the collection of pupils we will be offering after school care provision for Key Stage 2 only. This will be in bubbles and all children will need to be collected at 16:30. There is no flexibility on these times and there will be a charge of £5 per pupil for this provision.

- 16:30 LKS2 (3&4) Down Doors
- 16:30 UKS2 (5&6) Double doors

If this is needed, and if we can do so safely, we will try to extend the child care provision to other bubbles after Easter, when we will review the clubs provision as well.

We hope that all parents will support us by being punctual to collect children, adhering to social distancing and leaving the vicinity immediately upon collection.

## Uniform

Children are expected to wear their full school uniform. One day per week children will come to school in their PE kit. Please check the school website for the expectations. To support families, we will be holding regular second hand uniform sales. We hope that parents will support us by ensuring that all items are labelled and that clothing is washed regularly. Children are to bring their own water bottle (which we will refill as needed) to school every day and a packed lunch if you choose not to have the cooked lunch provided by the school catering team (please remember to give two weeks' notice).

## Visitors

Only essential visitors will be allowed to access the building. If parents wish to communicate with the school please email the school office [office@stvincentsprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@stvincentsprimary.org.uk) or telephone 020 3146 0743. If you wish to speak with the class teacher please email the office and a virtual meeting will be arranged.

## Safety measures

To prevent the spread of coronavirus, we will use a range of protective measures to create safer environments in which the risk of spreading the virus is substantially reduced. All classrooms already have a sink and hand sanitiser is available throughout the school. We will continue to promote regular hand washing and good respiratory hygiene.

## Cleaning

Our full cleaning team will continue a thorough clean every evening. The school staff will also be cleaning more frequently throughout the day with a focus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, table tops and play equipment.

## Communication

We 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 resume. Please do check the website [www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk](http://www.stvincentsprimary.org.uk) regularly and leave comments to let us know your thoughts. Your feedback is always greatly appreciated.

Accompanying this letter is the revised Home School Agreement which clarifies how we will be working together to keep our school family safe. Please read this and then complete the Google form <https://forms.gle/We6z9sfnG5RYCtXJ8> to confirm that you have understood this and to provide us with other information required in advance of the return to school. We need a separate form to be completed for every child in the school please.

I apologise for such a long letter but I want to provide you with as much information as possible in advance of the return. We will also be updating the school website with more information, including some resources to help to support the wellbeing of pupils. Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this time. Thank you also for your thoughtful messages– we have really appreciated your kind words. We are looking forward to welcoming back the children and to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely, *M. Coleman*, Headteacher



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