

Tuesday 23th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today regarding reception pupils returning to school. School closed to pupils on Friday 20th March and I am now pleased to inform you that from Monday 29th June, school will be reopening for reception pupils. Reception, are the third year group to return to school following year 1 and year 6 pupils who have successfully returned over recent weeks. I am sure you may have questions or concerns, through this letter I hope to address these issues.

Pupils in reception are at the early stages of their school career and are mastering the essential basics, including counting and the fundamentals of reading and writing, and learning to socialise with their peers. When pupils return to school, the members of staff working with them will focus on these areas. Returning to school will also allow pupils to see, talk and play with their friends in a safe way.

Vulnerable children and households where someone is vulnerable.

Sadly, pupils who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) or living in a household where someone is clinically extremely vulnerable will not be able to attend school at this time. We recommend pupils who are [clinically vulnerable](#) or living in a household with someone who is clinically vulnerable should not attend school at this time. We ask, if you intend to send a child to school and they are clinically vulnerable or they are living with someone who is clinically vulnerable that you discuss this with school before returning.

The school day

The school day for pupils in reception will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm. It is very important pupils arrive and are collected on time. The school day will be staggered so pupils are able to have break time and lunchtime without coming into contact with other bubbles. Universal school meals will be provided. These will be packed lunches and eaten in classrooms. School will close for year reception pupils at 12.45pm each Friday. This will allow for a deep clean of the school premises to take place. Unfortunately, until further notice it will not be possible for pupils to cycle to school.

The start and end of the day

Pupils should enter school via the silver gates on Burford Road. The school gates will open at 8.30am. Members of staff will be on the playground to supervise. When pupils arrive, they should go to the line for their bubble. Each bubble will be signposted and there will be clear markings on the playground to ensure adequate social distancing. At the end of the school day, pupils will be collected from the same place they are dropped off. We recognise that on Monday this routine will be new for all pupils. On Monday, when pupils arrive, members of staff will take them into the school hall where adequate social distancing will be in place. Members of staff will then welcome pupils back, explain the new routines and place pupils into their bubbles. Parents are encouraged to accompany their child and attend this meeting. After pupils have left the hall to go to their bubbles, there will be an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have.

Bubbles

Pupils will be placed in bubbles of no more than fifteen. Pupils will be placed into bubbles based on a range of factors. We will, where possible, ensure pupils are in groups with their friends and a familiar adult. As bubbles are limited to fifteen pupils it will not be possible to place each pupil with their teacher. During the school day, each bubble will be isolated from the other bubbles in school. The idea of pupil bubbles is to prevent pupils mixing or coming into contact with other groups of pupils. It will not be possible to move pupils between bubbles.

Attendance

The government have deemed it safe for school to reopen for more pupils. We would encourage pupils to attend daily. We recognise that some parents and carers may not want their children to return to school or that you may only want to send your children to school on certain days. We understand at this time that you may have concerns regarding your children attending school more often than you feel necessary. Ultimately, this is your choice as parents and carers and we will support the decision you make.

Uniform

Pupils are not required to wear school uniform. We would expect pupils to wear a fresh set of clothes each day.

COVID-19 symptoms

If a pupil or member of their household displays COVID-19 [symptoms](#) they must not attend school. Where households are displaying symptoms, we would expect people to get [tested](#). If a pupil displays symptoms in school, they will be isolated in school and parents or carers will be contacted to collect their child. In this scenario, the expectation will be that your child is tested for COVID-19 and school must be informed of the test result. If a pupil in your child's bubble displays symptoms and subsequently tests positive, parents will be informed and pupils in that bubble will then be sent home to [isolate](#) for seven days, other members of the household should isolate for fourteen days.

If you have any questions regarding your child returning to school, please refer to the frequently asked questions on the school website. There is also a gallery of images to show you what the school building looks like. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the following email addresses:

Acting Head Teacher: d.hunter@st-margarets.manchester.sch.uk

Acting Deputy Head Teacher: s.fazal@st-margarets.manchester.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

David Hunter
Acting Headteacher

Acting Headteacher: David Hunter - d.hunter@st-margarets.manchester.sch.uk

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Saira Fazal – s.fazal@st-margarets.manchester.sch.uk