Thursday 10th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

**Phased Return to School**

It has been a joy for us and the St Mary’s staff team to welcome all of the children back to school this week. For many, it has been their first time in school for several months and we have missed them so much. We are delighted to share with you that we are so proud of how well the children have settled into the new school routines and their new classes. They are excited to be reunited with their friends and teachers and look forward to coming back to school the next day.

Please can we extend our thanks to all of our Parents and Carers for your support over the last week. You have been on time at the beginning and end of the day to ensure that things run smoothly. Thank you for lining up outside the school gates and using the spray-painted footprints to ensure good social distancing is maintained.

We would also like to thank the wonderful staff team at St Mary’s, supported by our Governing Body, who have worked tirelessly to risk assess and prepare the school for the full return of all pupils.

Following a successful week with half of the children at school each day, we are delighted to be able to confirm that **from Monday 14th September, the school will be open for all children**. Year 1 and Year 2 will now be able to start from 8:45, so please continue to follow these timings:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Classes** | **School Timings** | **Entry & Exit** |
| KS1 | Year 1 and Year 2 | 8:45 am | 3:15 pm | Main school Entrance – Lewisham High Street |
| Lower KS2 | Year 3 and Year 4 | 8:45 am | 3:00 pm | Side Entrance gate -Romborough Way |
| Upper KS2 | Year 5 and Year 6 | 9:00 am | 3:15 pm |

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, our children’s safety and wellbeing have been at the heart of the decision-making process. Allowing time to regularly review systems and procedures has enabled us to continue to make St Mary’s school as safe as possible. In light of all pupils attending and given the National increase in infections and updated Government guidance, we will be undertaking a thorough review of the risk assessments for the full operation of the school.

**School will be closed on Wednesday 16th September for the review to take place**

Please note that children in the Reception and Nursery classes ONLY will be able to attend on this day as they are following their own part-time staggered starting pattern. School leaders will continue to review the situation on a weekly basis and keep you updated with any changes. We don’t anticipate the school having to close again for future reviews. Thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding at this challenging time for all of us in the St Mary’s School community.

Yours sincerely

Christine Bernard, Headteacher

Julia Pring, Chair of Governors