

St Mary's Lewisham CE Primary School

Headteacher: Ms Christine Bernard

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"St Mary's is a good school" - Ofsted July 2016

Monday 2nd November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

New Covid-19 Guidance update

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term, I hope that you, your family and friends have remained safe and well. All school staff and governors are well. Please can I extend my thanks to all of our Parents and Carers for your support during last term.

I am writing to ensure that you are aware of the latest guidance announced by our Prime Minister Boris Johnson who introduced new National Restrictions in the UK starting from Thursday 5th November. The imposed restrictions are intended to control the rapidly rising cases of Covid-19 by minimising our day-to-day contact with other people to reduce the spread of the infection.

From Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, the Government is taking the following action:

1. Ensuring that there continues to be robust hand and respiratory hygiene procedures as well as 2 metre social distancing.
2. **Ensuring that schools, colleges and universities REMAIN OPEN.**
3. Requiring people to stay at home and avoid all non-essential travel, except for specific purposes.
4. Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
5. Closing certain businesses and venues.

Given the National increase in infections, frequent changes to official guidance and the very significant challenges being faced by the Government's testing programme we believe that measures put in place by the school are effective and will continue. Therefore, we will continue to close for a deep clean and review of our risk assessments and procedures, on Wednesdays. The only exception is during the final week of term, when **school will be open on Wednesday 16th December, which will be the last day of Autumn term.**

Deep clean and weekly review of our risk assessment – What does this mean?

- **School will continue to be closed every Wednesday (apart from Reception, Nursery and Year 6 class) until at least the end of December**
- Home learning (a combination of paper and online) will be set for all children to complete at home on a Wednesday, following the blended learning initiative
- Teachers will have their PPA time on a Wednesday, meaning that they will remain in class with your child for the rest of the week
- The requirement for staff to work across more than one group will be reduced
- The whole school will receive a thorough deep clean every week, in addition to the daily enhanced cleaning schedule
- A packed lunch will be provided for all children who need it

At St Mary's we will continue to implement all of the hygiene and social distancing routines that we have put in place – please refer to the [Covid-19 School Guidance Handbook](#). As always, thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to work in partnership to make our school community as safe as it can be for our children.

Yours sincerely

Christine Bernard, Headteacher

