

St. Margaret's C of E Primary School (V.A.)

Hive Street
Hollinwood
Oldham
OL8 4QS

Headteacher: Mr D Whittle
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Whittle
Chair of Governors: Mrs Denise McCoy



19th August 2020

Dear families,

Re: September 2020 full reopening information

Welcome Back

While we are excited to get all our children back to school in September, safety remains our ultimate priority.

We have taken the time to review all of the government, DfE and Public Health England guidance and have devised procedures and operational structures that will minimise risk and provide everyone in our schools with as safe an environment as possible.

We will be focused on three core priorities:

1. Maintaining our rigorous procedures to minimise risk of infection
2. Supporting pupils' wellbeing
3. Closing pupils' gaps in learning and ensuring their progress is accelerated.

COVID-19 continues to pose a threat and we will need to introduce new procedures across our school to minimise risk of infection and enable the staff to continue supporting the educational and general wellbeing of our children. This means that school will look different upon our return and some of the structures and experiences your child is used to in a normal school environment will have changed. All children will be allocated a bubble in which they will remain whilst in school in order to minimise contact with others.

This letter sets out the guidance for the full reopening of our school for the start of Autumn Term 2020 - we have appreciated your support throughout this process and familiarising yourself with the detail of this letter will help us provide a positive start to your child's return to full-time education.

The information in this letter is correct at the time of writing. However, as has happened multiple times already since the beginning of this pandemic, it is subject to change for example as restrictions are lifted or new measures put in place. Please note, we reserve the right to withdraw places if we become aware that families are not following the most up to date social distancing rules/guidance. If this situation occurs then an assessment of risk will be undertaken to assess the circumstances - if it is deemed that this is presenting additional risk to others then this may result in the family being asked to isolate themselves for the required time before the child is allowed back into school.

I have highlighted below a set of FAQs to explain school organisation in September.

Mr Whittle
Headteacher

What time will school start and finish?

On Thursday 3rd September, school will open to all pupils. In order to maintain social distancing and limit the amount of people on the school site at one time, we have been advised to stagger the start and end times of the school day. Below is a table which will inform parents of the start and end times of each class and where they should drop off and pick up their children. We ask all parents to ensure that they adhere to these times. When dropping off your children we ask that you leave the school site as quickly as possible to limit large gatherings. We are also still operating a one parent policy, meaning that only one parent may drop off or pick up their child/children at a time.

Class	Start and finish times*	Entrance and exit
Nursery	8.45 - 11.45 (am session only) 12.30 - 3.30 (pm session only) 8.45 - 3.3.0 (full day)	Nursery gate
Reception	8.55 - 3.15	Nursery Gate
Fox	8.45 - 3.05	Prayer Corner Gate - top of Lonsdale Road
Chamber	8.55 - 3.15	Prayer Corner Gate - top of Lonsdale Road
Brook	8.55 - 3.15	Main Gate - front pedestrian gate on Hive Street
Twist	8.45 - 3.05	Beehive Gate - gate at side of Beehive building on Grammar School Road (see sign)
Devon	8.55 - 3.15	Beehive Gate - gate at side of Beehive building on Grammar School Road (see sign)
Durban	8.55 - 3.15	Garden Gate - far gate on Grammar School Road (see sign)
Heron	8.45 - 3.05	Main Gate - front pedestrian gate on Hive Street
Oak	8.45 - 3.05	Garden Gate - far gate on Grammar School Road (see sign)
*unfortunately if children miss their start time they will not be permitted to come to school that day. There will be no lates allowed in through the main school office.		

Our drop-off and pick-up systems during the last few months have been very effective and we thank parents for their support and understanding in keeping to the rules and timings. As we are sure you can appreciate, in September the number of children



Tel: 0161 770 5900
Email: info@stmargaretsoldham.net
Web: www.stmargaretsoldham.sch.uk

attending school will greatly increase and we ask that you continue to support school and understand the need for the new, strict systems to ensure your child's safety.

As was the case with the June wider reopening, we are still unable to permit parents access to the inside of the school building or onto school grounds. If you need to speak to a member of staff please telephone the school office.

What should my child wear to school? What about PE?

As communicated previously, we would ask that children wear their normal school uniform. To further limit the spread of the virus we will also not require children to bring into school a PE kit. Instead we will be inviting the children to come into school on the day they have PE in their PE kit (light blue t-shirt with school jumper on top and a choice of either dark coloured leggings or jogging bottoms. They should also wear trainers on these days. Parents will be informed on the first week back when their child will have PE. Your child's class teacher will inform you of your child's PE day in the first week of school.

What should my child bring to school?

School needs to limit the number of items being brought into school to reduce the risk of virus transmission. We therefore ask that only coats, lunch boxes and water bottles are brought into school on a daily basis. We are not permitting children to bring in any bags as we do not have any safe way to store these and there could be a risk of increasing the possibility of virus transmission.

We are also intending for all children to be given their own individual pack of stationery to avoid cross contamination, this will consist of the usual pen and/or pencil, ruler, white board and pens and also include any other learning aides as required.

Will there be any after-school activities? Will the breakfast club be running?

Initially, while we get used to this new way of working, we will not be running any after-school clubs or breakfast club. Once we are confident that these clubs can run, we will let parents know.

What will the classrooms look like?

We aim to ensure that the classrooms will look as 'normal' as possible. We have removed some of the unnecessary soft furnishings and desks will be facing forwards. Other than this, classrooms will have their normal welcoming feel.

What will happen at breaktimes? What about lunchtimes?

Staggered playtimes are in place for the bubbles as well as specific areas of the school ground being allocated where different bubbles will play. Movement around school will be minimised and where possible external doors will be used as opposed to entering shared spaces.

It is currently impossible to offer a full lunchtime service in the hall whilst keeping year group bubbles separate. Therefore, school dinners will predominantly be picnic style lunches that children can eat in the classrooms. However, at least once per week children from each bubble will go into the hall for lunch and receive a hot school lunch. As of 1st September the cost of school dinners has increased to £2.40 each day (£12.00



Tel: 0161 770 5900
Email: info@stmargaretsoldham.net
Web: www.stmargaretsoldham.sch.uk

per week). Please note, as we will be unable to allow parent/carers onto the school site in September, that school is in the process of setting up a cashless payment system called SchoolMoney - further details can be found on the school website.

As with breaktimes, lunchtime is staggered to ensure bubbles do not mix.

What curriculum changes have been made?

Guidance states that children should sit in rows, side by side, facing the front in order to limit the spread of the virus. This is not recommended in EYFS settings. Children will receive a broad and ambitious curriculum in September but there will be emphasis initially on filling any gaps in core learning areas such as Maths and English and an enhanced focus on PSHE and wellbeing. We feel it is very important to support all our children back into school and plan to deliver regular PSHE and wellbeing lessons during our initial return. These lessons will focus on the new rules in school, what we are doing to keep everyone safe, best practices for good hygiene and sessions which will support and help children who may be feeling anxious about being back in school. Please inform school if your child has seemed particularly anxious during this time/about their return to school so that we can do our best to further support them.

We have also had to remove some elements from the school day until further notice - no large gatherings are permitted, including: assemblies, singing in large groups and church celebrations.

What about reading books? Will my child get homework?

Children will be given a reading book as usual - on their return to school they will be quarantined for 72 hours before being placed back on the shelf. Homework will continue as normal.

What extra precautions are in place with regards to cleaning and hygiene?

While COVID-19 continues to pose a threat, it is very important that we keep the school environment as clean as possible. As we have been doing for the last few months, school will continue to carry out an enhanced cleaning and hygiene rota:

- children will be supervised washing their hands frequently throughout the day - before and after eating any food, before and after playing outside, going to the toilet, etc. In addition they will be required to wash their hands when entering the classroom.
- a member of the cleaning team will be onsite throughout the day to continually clean door handles, toilets, etc.
- cleaning materials will be available in each classroom so that staff can maintain high standards of hygiene throughout the day.
- waste will be disposed of in a hygienic and safe manner.

Please ensure you support these precautions by sending your child to school each day with a water bottle and take it home to be cleaned each night.



Tel: 0161 770 5900
Email: info@stmargaretsoldham.net
Web: www.stmargaretsoldham.sch.uk

What about first aid?

General first aid will be unaffected in school but children may notice that staff administering first aid may be wearing some personal protective equipment, depending on the treatment necessary.

What if a member of our household feels ill?

If your child is ill, then you must inform school before 10:00am. If they are not showing any symptoms related to Covid-19 then usual sickness rules apply (your child must not return to school until 48 hours after their last case of vomiting or diarrhoea). If your child is showing any Covid-19 related symptoms:

- high temperature
- new continuous cough
- loss of smell or taste

If children feel ill during school normal procedures will apply - if a child is showing symptoms of co

then the following information (which has been taken directly from the Gov.uk website 'Guidance for full opening: schools' should be followed:

Parents should book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit. Parents and carers must:

- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID- 19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self- isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue



Tel: 0161 770 5900

Email: info@stmargaretsoldham.net

Web: www.stmargarets.oldham.sch.uk

self-isolating for the full 14 days.



Tel: 0161 770 5900
Email: info@stmargaretsoldham.net
Web: www.stmargarets.oldham.sch.uk