



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

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Updated Covid-19 Communication

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to most parents who are adhering to our measures outside the school gates to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. We need **ALL** our parents to fully comply with social distancing. We are operating under a tight risk assessment in school to keep our pupils safe. However, the implementation of this risk assessment alone inside the school gates will not work to protect us all on its own. **WE NEED YOU ALL** to take responsibility for the health and safety of our community while you are on St Mary's Way.

Please read and action the following with immediate effect if you are not already doing so:

- You must socially distance, at least 2m distance. We appreciate that it is not always possible to distance to 2m from passers-by due to the size of the pavement. We would therefore recommend that you wear a face covering on the school run, in line with Government guidance.
- Only queue if your class has been called and if not, please move away from St Mary's Way until your allocated time.
- Only **1** parent/carer to wait in the queue once classes have been called to help ease congestion on the pavement.
- Please wait in your car until just before the designated time if you are driving.
- Refrain from gathering on either side of the road on St Mary's Way. Parents are asked again to arrive at school at the time that has been allocated and leave the school vicinity promptly to ensure the movement along the street remains fluid. Staff will be asking parents to relocate if they are early.
- Parents should not congest pavements by gathering in groups as this is obstructing our Junior parents from being able to socially distance when walking to and from school. This will enable all parents to access the pathways.
- Please refrain from walking in the middle of the road. This is not an expectation of the school and the school are not responsible if you choose to do this. Please instead communicate with the people you need to manoeuvre around in order to give you space to socially distance and to keep you safe from traffic.
- Everyone has the right to be able to socially distance and it is everyone's responsibility to enable this.

This week, Hertfordshire County Council wrote to you all informing you of the recent rise in cases of Covid-19 in young people under 20. If the current spread continues, it is likely that we will need to close schools with high numbers of cases for a period, and this risk causing disruption at a time when we wish to avoid this.

Considering Boris Johnson's recent campaign, we hope that you can help us by:

1. Washing your hands before arriving at school

While coronavirus is not likely to survive for long periods of time on outdoor surfaces in sunlight, it can live for more than 24 hours in indoor environments. Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer, regularly throughout the day will reduce the risk of catching or passing on the virus.

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God'

2. Wearing a face mask:

Coronavirus is carried in the air by tiny respiratory droplets that carry the virus. Larger droplets can land on other people or on surfaces they touch while smaller droplets, called aerosols, can stay in the air indoors for at least 5 minutes, and often much longer if there is no ventilation. Face coverings reduce the dispersion of these droplets, meaning if you're carrying the virus, you're less likely to spread it when you exhale.

Many of our parents are feeling extremely vulnerable due to previously following shielding guidance. We would encourage parents to wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting children. We cannot enforce this as it is outside school, but this would certainly help some families to feel more protected during this time.

3. Keeping space

Transmission of the virus is most likely to happen within 2 metres, with risk increasing exponentially at shorter distances. While keeping this exact distance isn't always possible, remaining mindful of surroundings and continuing to make space has a powerful impact when it comes to containing the spread.



Following these simple steps could make a significant difference in reducing the transmission of Covid-19 and help protect you and your friends, colleagues and family from the virus.

This is an anxious time for all of us and we must pull together and comply with the measures in place as this will have a huge impact on us being able to keep St Mary's open for all our pupils.

Kind regards,

Miss Edey

Headteacher