



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Headteacher - Mr P Ackers  
Deputy Headteacher - Mrs S Rudd

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

## Returning to school in September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families are keeping well. Once again, it wasn't the year we had planned but I think together we have coped really well and we would like to thank you for the all support you have given to your children and the school during the past 11 months. It certainly has been a bit of a rollercoaster.

As you will be aware, this year has seen us operating with a number of measures in place to limit or prevent the spread of Covid-19 in school. These have included the use of face masks for parents/visitors on the school grounds, staggered break, lunch and pick-ups, enhanced cleaning and the use of year group 'bubbles' to ensure that pupils from different cohorts do not mix.

By September 2021 when pupils return to Saint Mary's, many of the measures will have been removed nationally as the country proceeds through Step 4 of the roadmap to recovery. Though we welcome the relaxing of these measures and the chance to return to more conventional school life, we are aware that we will need to remain cautious in order to minimise the risk of new outbreaks and therefore pupils being absent from school. As such, we will retain some of the measures we have in place currently into September.

'Bubbles' will no longer operate and parents will not need to wear masks on school grounds (they will be optional for those who choose to use them), though we will continue to encourage the use of sanitiser and good hand hygiene.

We have been busy planning the return to school here at Saint Mary's and are now in a position to share our September plans. Despite this being a very challenging year there have been some practices that we have introduced that we feel has benefitted the school and we will be keeping them going forwards. These include, keeping the drop off arrangements the same and fluid from 8.40am – 8.55am, school will provide stationary equipment and the children will continue to come dressed for PE on their allocated days.

**There is, of course, a chance that national or local guidance may change over the course of the summer break, forcing us to alter our plans. If this is the case, we will of course write to you to inform you of any changes.**



DIOCESE OF  
NOTTINGHAM

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Gladstone Street, Glossop, SK13 8NE  
01457 854473  
[info@mgl.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:info@mgl.srscmat.co.uk)  
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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## Welcoming You Back

We are looking forward to welcoming children back to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. Attendance is of paramount importance and the usual rules on school attendance will apply. The children will only need to bring a small bag to fit their reading book in, their coats, lunchboxes and water bottles, as all stationary will be provided for the children in individual pencil cases. No pencil cases from home are needed.

## Drop off and Collection

The start of the school day will be continue to be extended slightly (8.40 am- 8.55 am) BUT the end of the school day will now revert back to a **3.15pm pick up for everyone**. Please see table below for year group specifics. Members of SLT and the Pastoral Team will be on hand at both the start and end of the day.

Once again, please do not stay after you have dropped your child off. This is to minimise congestion at the entrance to school and to keep movement fluid. When picking your child/ren up, please continue to keep a distance on the playground and leave as soon as you possible can.

Parents of Reception children can enter the school site and take their Reception child up the vehicle drive and leave them with a staff member at the yellow entrance gate to the Reception/Year 1 outdoor area (staff will be there to direct you).

If your child arrives late (after 8.55 am), then you must remain with your child outside the school gates, and contact the school office by using the intercom. A staff member will then come and collect your child, and sign them in on the Visitor pod.

Class	Drop off time	Collection time and place
Reception	<b>8.40 am- 8.55 am</b>	<b>3.15pm</b> up the vehicle drive up to Year 1 and Reception yellow gate. Staff will bring your children to you. Please wait patiently and be respectful of others.
Year 1	<b>8.40 am- 8.55 am</b>	<b>3.15pm</b> up the vehicle drive up to Year 1 and Reception yellow gate. Staff will bring your children to you. Please wait patiently and be respectful of others.
Year 2	<b>8.40 am- 8.55 am</b>	<b>3.15pm</b> from the school playground. Staff will bring your child/ren to you. Please wait respectfully and where possible at a distance on the playground.
Year 3 and Year 4	<b>8.40 am- 8.55 am</b>	<b>3.15pm</b> from the school playground. Staff will bring your child/ren to you. Please wait respectfully and where possible at a distance on the playground.
Year 5 and Year 6	<b>8.40 am- 8.55 am</b>	<b>3.15pm</b> from the school playground. Staff will bring your child/ren to you. Please wait respectfully and where possible at a distance on the playground.



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## New Reception Children

Our new Reception children will start school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021** and will attend for the morning and lunch only, with arrivals between 8.40 am- 8.55 am and collection at **1.15pm**. This will remain the same for **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. From **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021** our new Reception children will be attending **full time from the morning, until collection at 3.15pm** (see pick up point on the table above). We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your children to our school community.

## Cleanliness and Hygiene

All children will continue to wash hands regularly throughout the day and enhanced cleaning of touch points throughout the school will be completed at various intervals within the day. Please remind the children of this before September.

## Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club will begin from the start of the school year (06.09.2021) and will be open from 7.30am. If you would like your child to attend, then please request a place for the Advent term by contacting the school office or make an enquiry via the school website. Information about after- school clubs in the Advent term will follow.

## Coming soon...

We are very hopeful of being able to offer an afterschool club care facility early on in the advent term. We are looking into possibility of being able to offer this from 3.15pm – 5.45pm with flexible places available to suit families i.e. one hour, an hour after a sporting club or the full two and a half hours. Please look out for further details that will be coming soon.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We are looking forward to seeing you all again in September where hopefully we will have an uninterrupted year. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer break.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

Mr Paul Ackers  
Headteacher

Mrs Sarah Rudd  
Deputy Headteacher



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