

# St Mary & St John CE Primary School



**Meadow Lane**

Oxford OX4 1TJ

Phone: (01865) 723841

Website: [www.ssmj.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.ssmj.oxon.sch.uk) Email: [office.3834@ssmj.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3834@ssmj.oxon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Rebekah Stott

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

The teachers have all been in school today busily getting ready for the start of the school year. Your new classrooms are looking great, and we are very excited to welcome you all back on Friday.

Before we return, I wanted to communicate the latest COVID changes. The local authority is recommending 'business as usual' where possible. 'Bubbles' will no longer be in place, meaning that the children will be able to have shared break and lunch times again. It also means that we will be able to gather as a whole school for assemblies and collective worship for the first time in 18 months. We will spend time outdoors whenever possible, and follow government guidance to:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

You will be able to find a copy of the latest risk assessment for COVID on the school website, along with a contingency plan should we need to revert to more stringent measures following guidance from the local authority.

With this in mind, we will be tentatively starting to open the school up to parents, carers and visitors again. We have carefully planned how to start this. Please follow the outline below for drop-off and pick-up procedures:

- To reduce the risk of transmission, one parent/carer will drop their child/children at Year group access points during drop-off using the 3 gates. Parents will be encouraged to drop children and leave promptly to avoid congestion at the school gates.
- Until October half-term, Year 1 parents/carers will be able to enter via the main school gate and may drop children at the classroom door.
- School gates will open at 8:40 am and be locked at 8:55 am.
- At pick-up, children will be released from their classroom door where one parent/carer will collect. Year 5 will be released from the double doors near the Year 4 classroom and parents/carers may wait outside the hall area.

*Let all that you do be done in love*

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As a staff team, we are excited about taking careful steps back to opening school up again and are keen to settle the children into the new school year. We are aware that there may be some anxieties as these changes start to be played out and would encourage you to keep lines of communication open with class teachers. Drop-off times will be very busy, so if you have any questions, please communicate them via the school office ([office.3834@ssmj.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3834@ssmj.oxon.sch.uk)). Messages will then be directed to the correct adult who will respond to arrange a call or a meeting via the school office.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday!

With many thanks for your support as we start the new year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rebekah Stott'.

Miss Stott

Headteacher

*Let all that you do be done in love*