



English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School

Flint Street, Walworth, London SE17 1RB

Tel: 0207 703 4726

www.englishmartyrsrprimary.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs H. Appah

1st September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Welcome back, we are very excited to welcome you all back to school on Friday 4th September. Many of you must have some concerns or reservations on your child/ren returning to school, over the summer break, there have been many discussions on the TV regarding pupils returning to school.

Please be assured, our premises staff, teachers and the Senior Leadership Team have been working hard over the summer break to implement safety measures and ease some of your concerns. It will be different from our usual start of the new school year, and value your support to ensure a smooth re-opening.

Attendance and absence: All pupils are required to return to school on Friday 4th September, it is now compulsory for parents to send their child to school. If at any time your child feels unwell and won't be in school, you must leave a very clear message of the child's name and class, report any symptoms they are feeling, the time frame of how long they have been feeling unwell and a contact number. Parents will be contacted regarding daily un-reported absences and must provide a reason for absence by 9.30am the latest each day.

If your child displays any symptoms of feeling unwell that could be considered covid related during the school day the school you must be able to contact you for immediate collection and testing to be arranged if necessary. Testing is not available through the school. More information on testing can be found on the Gov.uk website.

Face to face consultations: For the moment there will be no face to face meetings with parents. Parents will not be able to enter the school building, any queries or appointments can be made via email to the office email address office@englishmartyrs.southwark.sch.uk or by telephone 0207 7034726.

Safety Measures: Hand sanitiser will be placed around the school; children will be encouraged to wash their hands. Pupils do not need to bring into school their own sanitiser or required to wear a face mask in school. Social distancing will be maintained at all times as much as possible in school.

School Bags and Uniform: School bags can be purchased through ParentPay and upon receipt of email payment confirmation your child will receive their bag. The school will not be accepting cash from parents or pupils. Pupils should return in full school uniform and are not required to bring any personal belongings into school from home.

Mobile Phones: Although we do not encourage pupils to bring to school their mobile phones, we know some parents of children in Yr 5 and 6 who do. Mobiles are to be switched off before entering school and are to be kept in the classroom and given to their class teachers each morning in a clear plastic zip bag and their name written clearly.

Bubbles – Safety Measures: Children are grouped into bubbles, for example, Nursery and Reception will be bubble 1, Year 1 and 2 -bubble 2 and so forth. This is to ensure that there is a minimal crossover between all year groups. There will be more information on year group bubbles on our notice boards outside of school for parents.

Start Times: There will be staggered start and end times to help minimise large gatherings, these can be viewed on our school website and below. Please note that if you have a child in different year groups, therefore a different start and end time, we ask that you please refrain from gathering outside the school in groups. Pupils will wash their hands upon arrival in school and go straight to their classrooms.

Year Group	Start Times	End Times
Year 6	8.30am Main Gate	3.00pm – Car Park Exit
Year 5	8.30am Main Gate	3.00pm – Gate near Church
Year 4	8.40am Main Gate	3.10pm –Main Gate
Year 3	8.50am Main Gate	3.15pm – Main Gate
Year 2	8.45am Main Gate	2.45pm - Main Gate
Year 1	9.00am Main Gate	3.00pm – Main Gate
Reception	9.00am Nursery Gate	3.00pm- Nursery Gate
Nursery	9.00am Nursery Gate	3.00pm- Nursery Gate

Classroom organisation: Each classroom has been re-arranged to have two pupils per table, not facing one another, there is no requirement for pupils to wear face masks, cleaning will be carried out throughout the day.

Lunch Time: Lunch times will be staggered to accommodate “bubbles/social distancing”, there will be a one way system in place at the dining centre, one entrance with a different exit. Tables will be cleaned thoroughly before, during and after lunch has been served. School dinner and packed lunches remain the same, if you have a child on packed lunch, the office should be informed and for how long. This is part of our planning and preparation with the school cook to prepare the adequate amount of dinners.

Assemblies and Mass: Whole school mass and assemblies will not be held for the time being, we are working with our Parish Priest, Fr Thomas on how we can arrange for the children to still be able to attend mass. As much as we would love to see all of you parents, unfortunately class assemblies will be on hold, we will continue to look at options and keep you updated.

Late collections: We ask that you ensure you are on time to collect your child/ren from school. We cannot accommodate groups of pupils congregating together because they are late being collected; the school do not want to implement a late collection charge of £1.00 per minute for late for parents but may have to implement this charge if there are persistent late collections.

Meetings with parents: We usually contact parents to meet their child’s class teacher, at the start of the term, this year we are exploring other options and will keep you informed.

After school clubs: Information on after school clubs will be provided within the next couple of weeks.

The past 6 months have been challenging, all staff at EMS are dedicated in ensuring we do all we can to reassure any concerns parents have and recognise that our pupils education and well being is paramount. You have all been very supportive and cooperative, now it is time to come together again and follow a different path to enable our pupils to be the best they can be.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email office@englishmartyrs.southwark.sch.uk or call 0207 703 4726.

Thank you,
God Bless

Mrs H Appah

