

ST MARIE'S SCHOOL, A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Fulwood Road, Sheffield. S10 3DQ

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Headteacher: Mr J Fernandes



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to St Marie's Primary school! We are delighted that you and your child will be joining us in September. We are looking forward to getting, or in many cases, continuing to get to know you all!

Ordinarily, we would be writing to you to invite you to some events and meetings across the summer term. However, due to the current situation this is not possible at present.

We find ourselves in an unprecedented situation and empathise with the anxieties you may feel as a family regarding your child's transition into Reception. We would like to reassure you that a transition process will take place, even if a little later and a little differently to the usual.

As a school we are working within a constantly changing environment, we therefore ask for your patience whilst we put together plans which are practical, flexible and above-all mutually beneficial in supporting the best possible start to your child's school life at St Marie's. If national guidance changes, we will of course contact you with any updates.

Hopefully, you should have already received our new starter packs. If you have not please contact us at school. These packs include information about our school and key information about Reception for you to share with your child.

We will be talking to nursery settings, as we always do, to find out where your child is in their learning. We will also be talking to you directly to find out about your child's preferences; things they particularly enjoy, find difficult etc. These conversations usually take place within the context of a stay and play visit to school in June or July. However, this will not be possible due to the current situation, so it will be done via an 'All About Me' booklet, which will be posted out next week. Please fill this in together with your child and return to school once completed.

This year, we have also created a new section on our **website** with information that you may need, and you can access this [here](#). We will be adding to this page over the coming weeks and this will include **welcome videos** from key staff members and a **virtual tour of school** and the reception class.

In addition to the information which is being provided on the school website and to help you and your children to feel connected to school, we have set up a virtual new classroom using an online learning platform called **Edmodo**. Edmodo is accessible online and through any mobile device with Internet capabilities – including free apps for Apple and Android devices. We will send you the joining instructions to this platform and would urge you to sign up.

Mission Statement: Each child has a divine beginning and an eternal destiny. We help him or her on that journey.

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....Continuation

Unfortunately, it is looking increasingly unlikely that our Information evening, in school, will go ahead this year. This would have provided a great opportunity to meet the class teachers and teaching assistant as well as other members of the school staff including representatives from the leadership team and governors. We have therefore scheduled three identical meetings for parents on **Zoom** to meet the key staff in school. We would invite you to join us for **one** of these. To join just click the links below at the time of the meeting.

[Wednesday 8th July 1pm](#) - Meeting ID: 219 894 7552; Password: 815704

[Thursday 9th July 6pm](#) - Meeting ID: 219 894 7552; Password: 815704

We plan to follow the meetings up with a **phone call home** to ensure we have answered all your questions.

Please know that your child will be at the centre of every decision we make, and they will have the best transition to our school as possible, as our new children always do.

Dates for your diary:

These are our current start dates; however, we cannot confirm these until we have received further guidance from the DfE as to when schools will open fully.

1st September 2020 Inset Day where school is closed to all pupils.

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th September 2020 Home Visits for new Reception pupils.

The Reception team usually visit each child and their parents at home at the beginning of September. This gives us the opportunity to meet the child in their home where they are often more relaxed. We are aware these visits may need to be a little different for 2020. We are considering the possibility of garden visits, doorstep visits or a visit in our school garden if this is more convenient. More details will follow.

9th to 18th September 2020 Reception pupils will attend school on a part time basis in small groups. Details to follow.

21st September 2020 Reception pupils in for full days (8.50am - 3.20pm).

Starting school should be a happy and exciting time for both your child and for you. We know that you will have lots of questions to ask us and hope the information here will begin to answer at least some of those questions.

We will do our very best to make you and your child feel secure and valued and ready for the start of the new school year. On behalf of the Governors, staff, and wider community, we look forward to welcoming you and your child into St Marie's, once we are able.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Fernandes
Headteacher