

Frequently Asked Questions – Lockdown 3 at St Modwen's Catholic Primary School

We've put together answers to some frequently asked questions which we hope will be useful to families. (Please check regularly for updates as information may change at short notice.)

Date of Last Update: Monday 1st February 2021

Will school be open during February half term for the children of key workers?

No. The Government have confirmed that they expect all schools to close during February 2021 half term. School will close at 3.30pm on Friday 12th February and re-open at 8.45am on Monday 22nd February.

Will school be providing remote learning during February half term?

No. The Government have confirmed that they expect all schools to close during February half term.

Can I borrow a device from St Modwen's to help with remote learning?

If your child is not attending school regularly as a child of a Key Worker and does not have access to a device, please email the School Business Team at office@st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk to enquire about availability of home-loan devices.

Have there been any positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed at St Modwen's this week?

Yes. We have had 1 new positive case of COVID-19 in our pupil or staff community during the week beginning Monday 25th January 2021.

Will my child be taught by their class teacher in school?

Most children will be with their teachers. However, staff availability, staff training, general illness and COVID-19 related absences mean that some children will not be working with their teacher.

I am a key worker - If I have booked a place for my child, but no longer need them to attend, do I need to let school know?

If possible, (up to 48 hours before) please cancel your booking on ParentMail so that the place is released for others to book. If the booking form has closed, please email the School Business Team - office@st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk - so that they can release the place on your behalf.

Which children can attend Nursery?

The Government have made it clear that our nursery should be open to **ALL** children.

Which children can attend school during the second national lockdown?

After the Government made it clear in their updated guidance on 7th January that parents and carers who are key workers should keep their children at home if they can, many parents are now supporting us and the community by keeping their children at home if they are able to do so.

With effect from 25th January 2021, St Modwen's has introduced the following categorisation process in order to prioritise access to places:

1. 'Guaranteed Key Worker/Vulnerable Children' Places

School has guaranteed the following groups of children a place in school and has confirmed with those families that they have a guaranteed place via e-mail on 22nd January 2021.

- a. **SEND**
- b. **Vulnerable**
- c. **Key Worker children who have at least 1 parent working in Health or Education Services**

Please note school have only issued a 'Guaranteed Key Worker Place' if:

- **your child is a member of at least one of the above groups and has been regularly attending school from 5.1.2021**
- **evidence of your key worker status has been provided to school**

If you have received an e-mail offering you a 'Guaranteed Key Worker/Vulnerable child' place, you **DO NOT** need to book your child a place in school, but you do need to continue to order a school meal for your child if they require one.

2. 'Other Key Workers'

If your child has been attending school since 5.1.2021 and you have not been allocated a 'Key Worker Guaranteed Place', school will no longer be able to guarantee your child has access to a place and you will need to book your child a place on ParentMail on a first-come, first-served basis as places are released. Notification of planned release dates/times will be through ParentMail.

School have allocated a restricted number of places per year group which can be booked by 'Other Key Workers' on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to them having provided school with evidence of their Key Worker status

3. 'Siblings of Children in Nursery' who have been attending school:

School can continue to offer your child in Nursery a place in school, but any siblings will **NOT** be able to access a place from Monday 25th January 2021, unless your child belongs to either of the above groups i.e. 'Guaranteed key Worker/Vulnerable Children' or 'Other Key Workers' Groups.

Please note these new arrangements are effective from Monday 25th January 2021. We appreciate that this will be challenging for some key workers and is short notice, but we urgently need to respond to continue to maintain a safe environment for our children and staff through reducing contacts and the risk of transmission in school. **School will be strictly policing access to places and, if your child's name is NOT on the 'Guaranteed' or 'Other Key Worker' booked place list, your child will NOT be allowed into school.**

We would like to thank you all in anticipation of your continued co-operation, support and understanding that we have no choice but to limit the year group sizes for the health and safety of our children and staff during this very challenging pandemic.

How do I find out if I am a Key Worker?

The Government have produced a list of Key/Critical Workers on their website -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Are the Drop-off and Collection Times still staggered?

Yes, drop-off and collection times are as follows:

Key Stage	Drop off Time	Collection Time	Drop Off Point	Collection Point
Reception & KS1	8.45am	3.00pm	At Gates (Car Park)	Outside of Classrooms
KS2	8.50am	3.15pm		
Nursery – no change to current arrangements				

Please continue to follow school's current control measures regarding maintaining social distancing (2 metres), wearing of face coverings on entry to school gates, limiting your contacts and time on school site. We also request you are punctual in dropping off and collecting your child/ren.

Why do I have to queue in the morning to get into school? It is difficult to socially distance when waiting for my child to start school.

Parents that have to queue have arrived too early. Many thanks to all of the parents and families that are helping our community by arriving at school at the correct time. Unfortunately, there are still many families turning up too early, putting the safety of our community at risk.

Will my child be able to access Remote Learning from home?

If our revised arrangements now mean that your child/ren will need to access our remote learning programme, please be assured that we have invested in putting together a comprehensive, well-rounded remote education programme for all children to ensure that they continue to receive high-quality learning and education. School has received a vast amount of positive feedback and praise from parents for our teaching and learning team, quoting the high quality of our remote education programme as we strive to ensure equality of provision and access for all children. You can find our Remote Learning Fact Sheet on our website.

Our remote learning programme offers your child/ren:

- continued access to high quality teaching and learning from their class teacher via a virtual classroom **and**
- the opportunity for them to continue to feel connected with their classmates, teaching team and the wider St Modwen's family - supporting their mental health and well-being.

School would like to also take this opportunity to thank you all for your keeping your child/ren at home where possible and accessing our remote learning programme, which is proving to be highly effective and extremely popular with our children and parents.

Will end-of-year Government tests and assessments take place in summer 2021?

No end of year tests will take place. Teachers will be using informative teacher assessments at the end of the year so that parents/carers and your child's next teacher are still able to see how much progress each child has made.

- Year 1 phonic tests - will not take place
- Year 2 SAT tests - will not take place
- Year 4 Multiplication tests - will not take place
- Year 6 SAT tests - these will not take place

Will staff wear face coverings?

Yes, your child may be working with staff wearing clinical face masks and/or visors/aprons when social distancing cannot be observed. For more detailed information on PPE in school, please see our latest Risk Assessment on our website - https://www.st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk/_site/data/files/users/3/C94AB9682DCB95A9D19EC1E73F659849.pdf

Is the daily milk still being delivered to school for children that are entitled to free milk or for those who pay for it?

Yes. Our new supplier is delivering daily to school.

Are St Modwen's offering any wraparound care during this lockdown?

At the present time we are unable to offer Breakfast Club or After School Club but this will be reviewed regularly.

Will you still be providing breaktime snacks?

We still have breaktime fruit/vegetables for the Key Stage 1 children. At present we are unable to offer Break Sales for the Key Stage 2 children.

Do you have a Risk Assessment to help keep everyone safe?

Yes we do. We are constantly reviewing our Risk Assessment and you can view our up-to-date one on our website:

https://www.st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk/_site/data/files/users/3/C94AB9682DCB95A9D19EC1E73F659849.pdf

Do parents have to wear a face mask when dropping off and picking up children?

Yes, please continue to ensure school current control measures are followed, including maintaining social distancing (2 metres) and wearing of face coverings on entry to school gates.

How can I help keep myself, and everyone else, safe at the beginning and end of the day?

To help ensure the safety of everyone, we would like to remind families of the following information which has already been shared.

- Only one parent or carer per family can accompany children on the school site
- Everyone entering the school site must wear a face mask
- Follow the one-way system around the school site. The Spiritual Garden gate must be used for entry only and the gates to the parent/carer car park must be used for exit only at the end of the school day
- Adults should not congregate in groups - limit your contacts and time on the school site
- Parents and carers must maintain 2m social distance from other families

When do I need to bring my PE kit into school?

Children only need to bring their PE kit into school on the day that they have a PE lesson. They will then bring it home at the end of the day.

What happens if my child, or someone in our household, has COVID-19 symptoms?

We have set up a separate part of our website to help families who have children or family members that display COVID-19 symptoms to make sure that this important information is now clearer and easier to access. <https://www.st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk/coronavirus-updates-guidance-and-plans>

Will children stay in their bubbles at playtimes and lunchtimes?

Yes. At break and lunchtime the playground will be divided into zones and bubbles of children will have exclusive access to these zones.

Are parents/carers permitted into school to speak to their child's teacher or to go to the office?

Not without an appointment and then only in an emergency. In the first instance parents/carers should contact their class teacher through Class Dojo or by email and request a telephone call. Any appointments then deemed necessary must be pre-arranged so that all necessary measures can be put in place.

Parents or carers must not come to the office to drop off paperwork. This can either be sent into school with your child or put into the postbox outside the school office. Alternatively, please send your correspondence to the school office by email to office@st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk.