

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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RE: Midweek Whole School Update on possible opening to more children from 1st June 27th May 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to update you all on the proposed re-opening of St Mary's to more children. At the weekend the Prime Minister said that everything looked set for a wider opening from 1st June. The official announcement is expected on Thursday (tomorrow) and I will write to you again on Friday to update you in the light of the announcement.

As you know, from the Governors' Update to you last Friday, we are looking at admitting more children (more means in addition to Key Worker children) from the 8th June. We will use the week of the 1st June to run through new procedures and policies in order that we are as safe as we can be and ensure that we are COVID19 aware. What is clear is that we cannot guarantee strict 2metre social distancing across the school but we will try our best and put measures in place. I will write again in the week of 1st June to update you on the specific routines we will be putting into place from the 8th.

In recent weeks the media have been making much about **when** schools will return. We have been spending time thinking **how** we will return. We want to be as safe as possible.

Guidance for Early Years was published on Sunday and this is recommending quite major changes to classrooms and outside environments and a maximum of 8 children in each group. This guidance is new and we have not yet had a chance to look through it as a staff and plan how we will implement its recommendations so for the time being we won't be welcoming EYFS (nursery and reception) children back on the 8th. We hope they can start to come in from the 15th most probably on a rota so that their bubbles are a maximum of 8 children in each.

From the 8th June we will open for the children in Y1 and Y6 whose parents said that they would like them to return. These children have been put into bubbles of no more than 15. Nursery, Reception, Y2,3,4 and 5 all stay safely at home for now. For the first week it's vital that only the children whose parents replied YES come into school. In total 171 parents of children in nursery, reception, Y1 and Y6 replied to the survey (that's an 89% response rate) with 50% of nursery wanting their children to return, 46% of reception parents, 66% of Y1

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parents and 50% of Y6 parents. Thank you for your responses which have been vital in planning how we will return.

There will be 4 Y1 bubbles (beginning with 8 children in each) taught by Mrs Millett called 1M (in current 2C classroom) and Mrs Qaiser, Miss Robinson called 1R (in current 2R classroom) and Mrs Bentley (Mrs Millett and Miss Robinson are the Y2 teachers for next year so some of the children will get time with them prior to September. We hope this offsets some of the upset at not having their own class teacher), Mr S Lawlor 1L and Miss Springer and Mr Thompson 1T with Miss Green. Mr Conway is re-joining the Y1 team too. I will write again to let you know which bubbles your child is in next week.

There will be 2 Y6 bubbles 6P with Mr Smyth with Mrs Nunn and 6S with Miss Scott with Mrs Macwan.

Each bubble will have its own start and finish time in school, playtimes and lunchtimes will also be staggered and the playground zoned so that children in different bubbles don't mingle.

If your child is not on the list to come back to school please don't send them in but if you change your mind please let us know before the Wednesday of the week for a start the following Monday. We will run the first week as we have planned so the earliest additional children in Y1 and Y6 could start will be the 15th June. The Y6 bubbles are at capacity so we have other teachers lined up so that we can open up more bubbles using the Y3 and Y4 classrooms. Y1 bubbles will start with 8 children in each and have room to expand to take all the children in Y1.

If you decide that you no longer want your child in school then that's okay too. Let us know and they can be withdrawn at any time. There are no penalties or black marks for non-attendance.

Lots of our children will still be at home and feedback from you is that you value the home learning and want that to continue. We have looked into this and we think we can keep our home learning packs going and teach in school at the same time. In order for this to happen and to allow teachers to contact children who are at home we will use Fridays to call (some not all children – your child's class teacher will decide who they continue to call), to follow up and to prepare work for the week ahead including home learning. This means there will be no children in school on Fridays (apart from the Key Worker children in the Child Care Club) but that home learning packs can be continued and will be uploaded by the Friday afternoon for the following week. If any of your children need a new exercise book you can pop into school and pick one up from the foyer.

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Our Key Worker Child Care club will continue to run with teachers who are not involved in teaching bubbles taking children out for group work (but not on Fridays). In this way these children will get input from teachers too – I know this is something that some of you are very keen to happen.

So to summarise:

- From 8th June we will welcome Y1 and Y6 children back in bubbles
- Each bubble will have different start and finish times, different play times and lunchtimes
- Y6 will need a packed lunch but Y1's packed lunch will be provided for them.
- We hope to welcome EYFS children back the week after on the 15th – most probably on a rota so that bubbles are only 8 children big.
- Y1 and Y6 will be in school Monday to Thursday
- Key Worker Child Care Club will run Monday to Friday.
- We will continue to offer places in our Child Care Club for Key Worker children – new children can join if you are returning to work please use the form on our home page to register for a place.
- Teachers in school will work with Key Worker children on Mon-Thurs

Thank you for your continued support.

St Mary: Pray for us!

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Yours sincerely


Head Teacher

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