



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



NEWSLETTER

“A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love”



Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 18th May 2020

Dear all,

This past week has been rather a confusing one in the world of education as we all try to come to terms with the Government's plans for re-opening schools. We fully acknowledge that this may have caused significant anxiety for some parents and carers, and the children. Anxiety is normal in moderation and we are sign posting parents to resources to help with managing greater anxiety at this time and things you can do for coming back to school especially if you have a child in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6 and are thinking of returning them on this date. Reassurance is the key at this point. Only telling the children what they need to know and remaining positive is so important at this time.

For parents of those in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 the information below is very relevant but I am letting all parents know the information as the Government will want to return the other children at some point and we will need to look at other arrangements.

Firstly, these arrangements can be subject to change at any point over the next few weeks and months so please be aware of this and the health and safety of the children will ALWAYS come first.

From the 1st June we will potentially (in line with Government guidelines) be offering school provision for Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6 only from **Monday to Thursday** on a full school day. School will not be open on a Friday at the moment unless you are part of the key worker and vulnerable children group. Teachers will have their PPA time on a Friday and the school will have additional time for cleaning.

Opening will involve three self-contained zones within the school for each year group, with an entry point at the gate for temperature testing (only initially) and straight in for handwashing. The children's temperature will be taken at the gate whilst with their parent. This is just a check but if the child's temperature is elevated, they will be sent home at that point as a precautionary measure. The children will arrive at different times depending on their year group to avoid parents congregating, and to reduce school traffic. Early Years will arrive at 8.30am, Year 1 at 8.45am and Year 6 at 9am. Pick up will be for Early Years at 2.45pm, Year 1 at 3pm and Year 6 at 3.15pm and this will be on the playground as normal. Drop off and collection must be by **one parent only**. There will be **no** Early Birds and **no** after school provision. The Key workers children drop off times will remain the same.

The children will need to bring their own water bottles, **no** soft toys or toys from home will be allowed, children and staff can wear masks if this makes them feel safer during this period. We ask that children return in school uniform, ideally a clean set of uniform every day. We are proud of our uniform and it does indicate that we are a school. If there are issues around uniform we have some second hand bits that we can sort out. PE kits will need to be brought in on the first day back.

Staff will be allocated to a zone and within that zone there will be 'Bubbles' of maximum 15 children, and they will stay within that zone (as much as is possible), there will be staggered lunch times and playtimes for each zone but it will be limited to reduce contact. This may not be with your child's teacher for the classroom or break times as the 'bubbles' need to be smaller than a normal class size but it will be a teacher and a teaching assistant.

Parents will need to drop children off at the gate, and there will be no parents, visitors or outside providers allowed on the school premises to start with. Classrooms have been redesigned with just the essentials for learning; this is to reduce the potential spread of the virus. Lots of the learning will take place outside so that it is easier for the staff to spread the children out and social distance. Social distancing is the hardest part for us as a school, and you will recognise that we are a social place, and although we will do our best, it will be incredibly difficult. Parents need to recognise that this **cannot be guaranteed at all times**.

We know that some of the children will find reintegration difficult and worrying. We will work with you and understand that this may take some time. If your child is distressed and they won't walk in to school on their own, we will have to ask you to take them home and then try again later when things are quieter. We cannot take your child from you at this point in the pandemic. In addition to this, any child who refuses to stay safe and follow the rules for keeping everyone safe, will be sent home. We will have phone support available from Miss Wilkins, Mrs Lee and Miss Harrison and they will advise strategies to help if this is required.

If the Government decides to return the other year groups then provision for EYFS, Y1 and Y6 will drop to a part time arrangement and then all year groups will only be attending on a part time basis. Further information will be sent out when this is relevant.

We know this isn't going to be easy but it is a process that we need to go through. We will be putting a notice board out for parents and a feedback box which notes can be posted in to. You will need to talk to your child about what returning to school will look like as it is going to be very different to what they were used to.

Helpful resources for anxiety – We are noticing many children and adults are feeling very anxious around coronavirus. It is normal to feel anxious when you feel you have a lack of control over something. If you need some resources to help with anxiety do have a look at this link [Anxiety and Returning to school](#). These booklets talk about social distancing and how to practise it, as well as what a mask looks like and why we wear them. Watching our staff video on the Toilet Roll challenge and the Water Challenge will help the children to recognise other faces as well.

As we get closer to opening on the 1st June, we will circulate which 'Bubble' the children will be in to help with this.

Staff will have an INSET day on Friday 29th May to get things organised for the following week but our keyworker/vulnerable children classroom will still be open for children needing to attend.

Questions and Answers:-

Q – If I have a child in Year 1 and Year 6 can I drop them off at the same time? **A** – No, Please drop one child off then go and park off site until the next designated time for drop off, this is to keep the carpark flowing.

Q – How long will the term be? **A** - We will finish on Friday 17th July as it stands at this moment in line with normal term dates.

Q – Will the children be required to carry out social distancing? **A** – The staff will be encouraging this, but it is almost impossible with young children so it cannot be guaranteed. However, classes will be much smaller and a staggered timetable will mean they don't come into contact with as many children and staff.

Q – Will Early Birds and Jiminy's be running? **A** - No they will not. No clubs at all will be running, these clubs only start running again once the school is open as normal or when we feel the time is right.

Q - My child is in one of the year groups that is returning first but I have a child in a different year group but I need to go back to work, can they come in? **A** - The Government guidance is clear. It is only those year groups at this stage of the Government plan. If you are a Key Worker and are actually working then your other child can join the key worker group. If you are not a Keyworker then the children in Y2/3/4 and 5 will need to remain at home. Home learning will continue as it has been and parents can still collect printed packs from school.

Q - My child has a medical condition that makes them vulnerable. **A** - As the parent of a child, you have to make the decision as to whether your child returns to school and when is the right time for you as a family. There will be no fines at this stage so the decision is one for you as parents as you know your child the best and how vulnerable they are.

Q - Do you have enough supplies within school for cleaning and hygiene? **A** - If we were to open on the 1st June we would have more than enough soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels in school. The cleaners have more than enough cleaning products to clean every day and conduct cleaning during the day of door panels, handles, toilets and other surfaces that would be touched.

Q - Would the staff and children be wearing masks? **A** - Initially staff and children can wear masks to make them feel safer. We suggest you talk to your child about this before they return to school and show them some pictures of what this might look like. We are unable to supply masks for children.

Please do ask any further questions and we will try and answer them as best we can. Please send any questions to head@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Thank you for your understanding, as we are all work together to get the school open and functioning in the safest possible way.

Link to the parent document: [Government coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance and support](#)

Half Term – Next week Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May, is half term and we will not be sending home daily activities. There will be a homework grid put on the site, as we did at Easter, with activities if you need to structure the days. If there are any issues during that week, I will be answering emails on head@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Achievements – Well done to Lorna (NZ) who has completed a virtual race whilst we have been in lockdown.

Active 60 – It is very important to exercise during this time. Do have a look at this Active 60 challenge. [Active 60 Minutes Log Book](#). This is a clear and simple way for children to challenge themselves to try and meet the target of 60 minutes of activity per day.



Oak National Academy – A few parents have been asking about online lessons to try and engage their children. Below is the link for the website for 'Oak National Academy' and they are running online teaching that might help to keep your child engaged if they are reluctant. It is very easy to navigate. You choose the Year group, and then there is a link based on the learning objective. All the learning is in the National Curriculum for that year group, some could be repeated learning for your child or something new that can give them an introduction. <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/>

Virtual Sports – Well done to Katie O (Jap), Kyle N-W (Jap), Jessica L (SL), Jessie N (USA), Matthew H (Mex), Callie N (SA), George B (Chi), James H (Mex), Noah E (Ire), James M (NZ), Albert G (Jap), Leo D (Ind), Holly M (Chi), Freddie G (Ire), Adam B (Mex), Freya C (Chi), Max D (USA), Amy H (Mex), Erin J (Jap), Daisy B (UK), Toby H (Fra), Max H (UK), Martha B (India), Ava D (Ire), Isla C (USA), Jordan N-P (Ire), Lewis H (Tha), Joseph S (Ind), Evie S (Mex), Mrs B, Mrs G. The number of children is increasing each week – well done to St Mary's, let's climb that leader board!

Parental support - Fegans have sent us the link for a free animated parenting course to help any parent who feels that they may be struggling. [parenting-in-a-pandemic](#)

Coronavirus Time Capsule – What would you put in your capsule? This is a great time to think about what you would put in your time capsule to do with coronavirus. Diary, posters, bits of your learning?

Thank a teacher - It is 'Thank a Teacher Day' on 20th May. I think many parents will have a much better understanding of how difficult teaching can be and how it has been a challenge just trying to teach your own children, let alone what it can be like with a whole class. If you think a teacher has done a good job, please say 'thank you' by dropping them an email.

Anxiety workbook for children [Anxiety Workbook Primary.pdf](#)

Financial help during and WSCC learning during lockdown - [Lockdown resources - April 2020](#)

Foodbank – At this difficult time, we are aware that parents may not be able to afford food and this worries us enormously. If you are concerned/worried about food in your household then email head@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk and we will be able to put you in contact with the food bank providers – we can't supply food ourselves but we can connect you with the people that can help.

Bags of Support – Lots of you have been clearing out wardrobes, drawers etc. and have clothes that are ready to donate to charity. Bags of support are an organisation that sends clothes and offer financial support to a village in Nkuringo Uganda where we are also able to sponsor some of the pupils' education too. As a school, we also receive 50p per kilo to spend. They will be collecting all bags from the school gates of St Mary's on **Friday 29th May between 10 – Noon**. Please see the attached letter for more information.

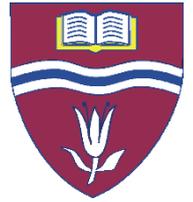
Music on the menu – Please click on the link for this week's West Sussex Music's [Music on the Menu](#)

Thank you - The community are really coming together for us as a school. We are so very grateful to Mrs Taylor-Bowers and Miss Smith who have kindly made facemasks for the staff in school. Also to Jack Kidwell who has fixed the staff room tap and to Willmers who have replaced the staff room dishwasher, all to keep the staff room as hygienic as possible in these difficult times.

At this difficult time, please follow Government advice and stay safe. We are thinking of you all, and we are looking forward to getting back to school when the time is right.

If there is anything that you would like me to discuss in the newsletters over the next few weeks, have some feedback, or you would like a photo of something your child/children has been doing to go in, then please email me at head@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk and I can add things in or address issues.

Mrs S Copus
Headteacher



Dear Parents

We'd like to bring to your attention a great recycling/fundraising service for your school.

Bags of Support are coming to collect any recyclable clothing, belts, bedding, shoes and handbags from your school on Friday 29th May between 10am and Noon.

After the collection, they weigh the items and pay the school 50p per kilo. The school is then free to decide what it spends their money on e.g. glue sticks, art materials or PE equipment the list is endless!

Bags of support are then able to send clothes and offer financial support to a village in Nkuringo Uganda where we are also able to sponsor some of the pupils education too.

Bags of Support are based in West Sussex and are ethically run; all the textiles are recycled.

Many Thanks

The Bags of Support team