



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Educate Protect Love Serve



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Dear parent/carer,

We hope that you and your family are well, and coping in these challenging and unprecedented times.

Our school has been open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children since the lockdown began on 23rd March, and staff have been supporting the home learning of children who have not been in school. We are very grateful to you for the support that you have provided for your child/children over this difficult period.

Following the government's announcement of its intention to begin the phased opening of schools from 1st June 2020, Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust has taken the following decisions about the opening of its schools.

Plymouth CAST will only consider the opening of its schools once invited to do so by the government on or after the 1st June, 2020, and once the government's 5 tests for moving to the next phase have been satisfied. Furthermore, each of our schools is required to complete a comprehensive risk assessment and planning process that will be approved by the Headteacher, Trust Education and Standards Manager, and Trust Director of Education before it is authorised to open.

The Trust will continue to work with our school leaders, staff, professional associations, local authorities, the Regional Schools Commissioner and government to ensure that the re-opening of our schools takes place at the right time and in the right way for the health, welfare and safety of our children, students and staff.

After careful consideration and extensive discussion, the Trust has directed its schools to begin its phased opening in the following way:

- In-school care provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable children from all year groups will continue.
- Any model of opening must include Year Six
- Where it is safe to do so provision must include Reception and Year 1, or any safe combination of these year groups.
- No year group other than those specified by the government, R, Y1 and Y6 is able to return to school at this stage.

It is important to note that the Trust's directive and the local planning decisions of the school may change due to guidance from the government, the local authority, Public Health England, and other appropriate agencies. The government's date of 1st June for the phased re-opening of schools is only



provisional and subject to the nature of the pandemic and national control measures as we approach that date.

- At St Mary's we will be accepting Year 6, Year 1 and Reception from the 1st June. These children will be required to **attend full time**.
- **Children will stay in their groups or 'bubbles'** at all times and will not mix with other groups. The children in each pod will stay together in the same classroom for learning, play and lunch. The same adults will stay with those children throughout the day where possible. Time outside at playtime and lunchtime will be staggered to avoid children coming into contact with another pod. They will also have separate play areas and their own allocation of play equipment. We will not gather as a large group for assemblies or for any other reason. Social distancing measures are in place in all areas where the children will be.
- **Uniform:** To prevent the spread of the virus it is important that children and staff wear clean clothes every day. At the end of the day it is recommended that the children and staff remove their clothing, shower and put on clean clothes immediately when they return home after school. The clothes worn to school should be washed immediately. Children can wear summer uniform (which is easy to wash daily) shorts, T-shirts or polo shirts and trainers/ soft shoes (they will do PE and outdoor learning in their clothes worn to school)
- Need a **named drinks bottle** and a **packed lunch** if they do not have free school meals or universal infant meals. (R and Y1) no other equipment from home other than lightweight coat, sun hat and sun cream.
- No **book bags**- but reading will be completed in school once we get back into a routine
- Children will be required to sanitise their hands on entry to school and exit from school, they will be required to wash their hands between activities, lunch and play times.
- **Drop off and Pick up:** Staggered times to the start of the day, please do not group around the gates. We request that only 1 parent drops off and picks up their child/ children. Please do not mix with others before or after school. The **gates will be open between 8.30 and 9.15 and closed after 3.30**, please **observe 2 m social distancing rule**.
Key worker children drop off at 8.30 and pick up at 3.30 in the upper playground (access Year 3 and 4 classrooms doorways)
Year R drop off at 9.00 and pick up from 3.00 (Reception class doorway- lower playground)
Year 1 drop off at 8.45 and pick up at 3.10 (Year 1 doorway and outside space)
Year 6 drop off at 8.50 and pick up at 3.15 (main entrance area and offices)
- There will be no **'meet and greet for drop off in the layby'** available in the first few weeks until we are satisfied everyone can keep safe. There will be a **member of the SLT available** at the beginning and the end of the day. Please park considerately, do not park in the layby.
- **Safety and Hygiene:** We do not advise the wearing of gloves or other PPE for children as the removal of such equipment during the day offers a greater risk than the equipment provides. Adults in schools are not advised to wear PPE for the same reasons apart from when



administering first aid/intimate care. At these times the adult will put on the PPE in front of the child, explaining as they do so. Hand sanitiser is also available in every 'bubble' but it is important to remember that washing with soap and water is more effective.

Children will not use cloakrooms, but will keep their coat on their own chair and their water bottle/lunchbox next to them at their table. They will each have their own tray of resources and will not share with others or bring in resources from home. They will have a reading book but this will again need to stay at school. Children in Reception will work in a small bubble with their allocated adults. They will be encouraged to keep a safe distance from one another as much as possible. We will not expect them to keep to the 2m rule. In line with government guidance, they will be able to share a limited number of resources, all of which will be washed at the end of each day or before another group uses it.

During the day, 'touch points' (door handles, surfaces, taps) will be regularly wiped by the adults in the Pod. Tissues are available in each bubble and children will be encouraged to 'catch it, Bin it, Kill it' and to dispose of their tissues in the bins provided.

- **Learning:** Our Home Learning provision will continue after June 1st for all children who are not attending school with teachers continuing to deliver learning via Class Dojo. The keyworker and vulnerable children in school will engage with the same learning if possible, as well as daily PE, Forest school on Tuesday and other well-being activities. Teachers will work on a rota system for the key worker group and home learning, but we will endeavour to do what we can to support you all moving forwards.

Mr Holmes is hoping to deliver online learning in the school via Google Classroom

Mrs Baker will be delivering the same work as she has set online to ensure all children have the same activities- she will also support the children with phonics and early reading, writing and mathematics

Mrs Horsley will also deliver the same work as she has set via Dojo.

For all of our teachers they will be very busy, so please be patient. Maybe send a Dojo at the end of the day to say that it has been completed. It will be very hard for them to balance both home learning and the school learning.

- **Visitors:** Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building for any reason. If you would like to speak to a member of staff, please request to do so in the playground at the end of the day; and then only at a safe distance. The best option for everyone is to communicate via email or telephone. There may be times when visitors need access to the school site, to maintain the safety of the building. They will be provided with clear instructions about school protocols and cleaning procedures etc and surfaces touched, will be wiped down and cleaned.
- **Wraparound and Breakfast club:** There will be no wrap around or breakfast club at present as all children will need to stay within their bubble and their class only.
- **Illness and symptoms:**
Important: If your child presents as feeling unwell, has a temperature or a cough we ask that you keep your child and their sibling at home and access a test through portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk. Contact NHS 111 for further information. **Please do not send your child to school until they have had a test and you have had the result.**



- Should your child feel unwell or develop a new and persistent cough, temperature or anosmia (loss of taste/smell) in school, we will look after them in the prayer room and speech and language room. These will be a designated isolation rooms and your child will be looked after there by a member of staff wearing PPE, until you can come and collect them. They should then be kept at home in line with Public Health England guidelines. No child should come to school if showing any of these symptoms.

I hope that these procedures and protocols will reassure you that we are doing everything in our power to keep everyone safe. There are no guarantees possible; children will struggle to maintain social distancing and the younger children will not social distance at all! The measures we have put in place are there to minimise the risks; they can't wipe them out. I know there is a great deal of anxiety amongst parents, staff and children about the possible re-opening on 1st June for the children I have identified. It is still your choice whether to take up the offer of a place and to send your child to school. There will be no fines or penalties for non-attendance. You need to do what is right for you and for your child.

We, as teachers, are creative problem solvers and we will do everything we can to ensure that school is a happy place where the children feel safe, happy and secure, and above all, that they belong! Our school always does its very best for everyone we care for and this will always be at the heart of everything we do.

Let us hope that the situation will continue to improve nationally and we will slowly be able to find our way back to how things were. The information shared with you today is relevant to the situation today. Our plans will be constantly reviewed and adjusted to meet further changes, developments or new government guidance.

Finally, we would say, how very proud we are of everyone in our community and the resilience you have shown. We miss you all dreadfully and we hope that one day soon we will all be back as one big group again.

Please adhere to the protocols we have put into place so we can keep everyone safe. We are very grateful to you for your support and understanding as we try to manage this situation in the best interests of our children, families, staff and the national COVID-19 recovery plan.

Yours sincerely,



Raymond Friel

CEO, Plymouth CAST



Alison McDonald

Headteacher, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bodmin

