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St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs D Bolton
Head of School: Mrs L Draycott

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, we are at a critical stage of the COVID-19 pandemic with infection and hospitalisation rates increasing. Consequently the largest teaching union, the NEU, and UNISON, have advised members that it is currently unsafe for them to return to work teaching full classes.

The impact on the provision for pupils at St Mary's is that all year groups will be accessing remote learning from home via Showbie for Years 2 to 6 and Tapestry for EYFS and Year 1. This will start from tomorrow, 4th January 2021.

The school will be open for children of key workers- please bring them to school tomorrow at 9am, in their school uniform. The breakfast club will also still be open from 8am. A list of key worker roles can be found following this link:

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

Pupils who have been identified as vulnerable will be contacted separately by Mrs Draycott.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals, Mrs. Slater will contact you on Monday 4th to ask if you would like a package prepared and delivered. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and they will be attending school as part of the key worker group, they will be entitled to their free school meal as usual. Other key worker children are also welcome to a school meal at the usual price.

Please could you let the class teacher know via Showbie or by calling the school office tomorrow if your child needs to loan a device from the school to complete their online work.

Plymouth CAST officers and school leaders are working closely with school-based staff; trade unions; local authorities and government agencies to ensure that disruption to our children's education is kept to an absolute minimum.

We are sorry for the inconvenience and concern that the current turn of events has caused for our parents, carers and families, and look forward to a return to normality as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Demelza Bolton

Executive Headteacher

Zoe Batten

CEO Plymouth CAST

