



ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs N Bray

Partial Reopening Communication

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to start this letter by saying a massive **thank you** for all of the support that you have shown to our school during this time of National crisis. Your kind words, supportive emails and commitment to using our home learning resources have been invaluable to us.

This letter will provide you with detailed information as we prepare to implement the government's plan for schools to open to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as continue to care for key worker and vulnerable children, and, also support those children still at home. As you can imagine this is a lot for schools to implement, and therefore this is a lengthy communication, as we want to be thorough in sharing our plans with all of you.

If you have informed us that your child will be returning from 1st June (at the earliest), you will receive further information later today.

Until further notice, year 2,3,4 and 5 must continue to stay at home and access our online provision.

It is important to note that these plans are dynamic and will depend upon the most recent government decisions, and our staff availability. As you will be aware, these changes are being planned to be implemented **from** the earliest of 1st June. **At the time of this communication, no date for reopening schools has been confirmed.** Schools are awaiting this information from Government who will make the decision (28th May) on when to move into Step 2 of coming out of lockdown when the data shows that this is the right time to make that step.

Whilst I am aware that many people are divided on whether a return to school is a good or bad thing at this point in time, I will say that it is our ambition to continue to support all children and families whether you continue to keep your child at home or send them into school.

Below, I am sharing our plans so that you can make an informed decision yourself. Whilst we can put into place specific control measures and follow the latest government advice, I cannot guarantee anyone's safety from coming into contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school. I suggest that families continue to monitor the daily reports and government briefings, so that you feel informed enough to make a decision on whether returning to school is right for your child and family's individual circumstances.

In relation to attendance, you will have my full support on any decision that you make. The government has made it clear that there will be no implications or fines for families that choose not to send their children to school. Individual families are in the best place to decide what to do. Factors that you must consider include:

- underlying health issues of your child and family members
- whether the structure of the school day will meet your aims and expectations for what is beneficial to your child
- your own interpretation of the current risk to your child / family of being in contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school.

We have provided the information into sections, which will hopefully make it easier to digest and understand, but please email the school on secretary@st-marys-truro.cornwall.sch.uk with any questions you may still have following this letter.

Keeping Children and Staff Safe

We are following government advice to keep our children and staff safe, so for example:

- Children will be split into groups of no more than 15
- Individual groups will not mix
- Each group will be allocated one key adult (this may not be your child's regular teacher)
- Where possible, tables will be spaced at 2 metres apart.
- Soft furnishing / resources that cannot be cleaned daily will be removed

We will attempt to maintain social distancing rules and will teach the importance of good hygiene and personal space, but we cannot guarantee that children will follow these rules at all times. It is also important to note that other adults may need to cover a bubble at short notice. Please consider this when deciding on whether to send your child to school.

Returning Children

Until further notice, year 2,3,4 and 5 must continue to stay at home and access our online provision.

As we have 3 year groups returning to school, we have split our classes into smaller 'bubbles' and allocated these groups work and play spaces. This will ensure that children in each area are able to be kept apart from the other children in school. Class 'bubbles' have been allocated toilets, lunch and break times, and have facilities for storing coats, lunchboxes etc.

As it currently stands, we are able to staff each bubble with adults who will work on a two-week rota. It is **unlikely that your child will be taught by their current class teacher**, but wherever possible we have ensured that there is a known adult in their bubble, as we understand the importance of this.

We will provide stationery and all resources for children, and politely request that children do not bring in their own. Where possible, we do not want objects from home coming into school and vice versa, especially soft toys as these cannot be cleaned effectively. Children will **not** be required to wear school uniform and should arrive in old clothes that can be easily and regularly washed.

Dropping off times

To support in reducing any size of gathering on site, all groups have a staggered drop off slot, a set pick up time, and the locations of these have also changed. It is vital that you adhere to these timings and do not arrive early or late wherever possible. There will be signs around the school to remind all parents to adhere to the 2-metre social distancing guidance. In addition to this, only one parent will be allowed to accompany their child onto site and, again, we politely ask that any toddlers or younger children accompanying parents are either in buggies or kept closely by their parent. A swift departure

of the school site will be required to enable the next group to safely arrive. Children will enter the building immediately on arrival and will not be permitted to play on the school grounds before or after school.

Cleaning of key areas

Cleaning will take place throughout the day and Interserve will carry out thorough cleaning of all areas each evening.

Further detailed guidance for each year group is set out below:

Reception Children

Our Year R children have been organised into groups with a maximum of 15 children. These two groups and the adults working with them will be based in the Reception Classroom and the hall. Both groups will have access to the Reception outdoor area at separate times and equipment will be washed between uses. To reduce the number of people on site we politely request that all year R children are dropped to their given drop off points, as shown below, **between 9.00 and 9.15am.**

Year R Bubble Group A - Hall side door

Year R Bubble Group B - Main Entrance

The hall door can be found to the left of the main entrance.

At the end of the day, the children will be dismissed from these locations at **3.00 pm Monday - Thursday and 2.00 on Friday.** We ask that when waiting to collect your child, you adhere to the social distancing rules and leave good clearance of the exit door for children to leave.

Year 1 children

Our Year 1 children have been organised into groups with a maximum of 15 children. These two groups and the adults working with them will be based in the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms. To reduce the number of people on site we politely request that all year 1 children are dropped to their given drop off points, as shown below, **between 9.15 and 9.30am.**

Year 1 Bubble Group A - Year 1 Classroom door

Year 1 Bubble Group B - Year 2 Classroom door

At the end of the day, the children will be dismissed from these locations at **3.15 pm Monday - Thursday and 2.15pm on Friday.** We ask that when waiting to collect your child you adhere to the social distancing rules and leave good clearance of the exit door for children to leave.

Year 6

Our Year 6 children have been organised into groups with a maximum of 15 children. These two groups and the adults working with them will be based in the Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms. As we are trying to reduce the number of people on site at any one time, we politely request that all year 6 children are dropped to their given drop off points, as shown below, **between 8.45 and 9.00am.**

Year 6 Bubble Group A - Year 6 Classroom

Year 6 Bubble Group B - Year 5 Classroom

At the end of the day, the children will be dismissed from these locations at **2.45pm Monday - Thursday and 1.45pm on Friday.** We ask that when waiting to collect your child you adhere to the social distancing rules and leave good clearance of the exit door for children to leave.

Please note, if you wish for your child to walk home, or to another given location, from school alone, confirmation of this must be received via email, using secretary@st-marys-truro.com.wall.sch.uk by **12pm on Monday 1st June**. Please indicate in your email, the days that your child has permission to walk home alone, as current permissions will no longer apply. No child will be dismissed from the classroom to walk home without this new permission. We would like to remind parents of the importance of discussing social distancing with children who may have previously walked home in pairs/groups.

School Meals

All children will have a lunch in school, either at their space in the classroom or in their designated outside space if the weather is fine. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, then a lunch will be provided by the school kitchen.

When schools reopen for Reception and Year 1 children, universal school meal provision will be reinstated and so every child attending school in these year groups is eligible to receive a lunch from the school kitchen. Further information will be sent out on this, so that we get an idea of indicative numbers.

In the event of a child / adult showing symptoms of COVID-19

As part of our Risk Assessment, if a child/member of staff is suspected of having COVID-19, ALL families will be informed that day (without disclosing the information of who the person/child is) so that families can decide if they wish to take precautionary measures themselves. If a child/adult tests positive for the virus, families will be notified, the school will close for deep cleaning and advice will be sought around the self-isolation of the wider school population.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Group Provision

The provision for children of key workers, vulnerable children and those who have an EHCP will continue for children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5. **This provision will start back on 1st June 2020 and will run between the slightly reduced hours of 8:45am - 3.15pm Monday to Thursday and finishing at 2pm on Friday.** If you are dropping off and collecting your child/ren at these times, please use the **Year 3 classroom door**. However, if you are in between these times, you will need to use the **main entrance**.

Due to the wider reopening of the school, the capacity for these spaces will tighten as we simply have neither the space nor the staff, and so we ask that if you are able to safely keep your child at home then please support us by doing this, and only ask to use this provision if absolutely necessary.

Home learning and the curriculum

Please do not worry if your child is in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, or if you are keeping your YR, Y1 and Y6 children at home, they will continue to learn from home through the on-line planning and resources that will be provided. All learning will be continued using the weekly learning grids published on our website whether the children are at school or at home.

Keeping in touch and communication

It has been very difficult to arrive at many of these decisions and to write this letter, as it goes against how welcoming and inclusive St Mary's is, but we know that you understand the reasons these are in place, and will support us in implementing these stringent measures to keep us all as safe as we can be.

We ask that no parent accesses the inside of the school building, including the foyer and school office, but instead communicates with us via email in the first instance. For more urgent enquiries, the school telephone will be manned from 1st June.

We also ask that you leave the site promptly after drop off and collection of your children and to avoid gathering on site.

For those children at home, please continue to send in photos of your children's learning via email and Seesaw and these will be responded to. We will also continue provide home learning plans and to offer our support, although please be aware this might not always be from your child's class teacher. It is likely that staff who have to work from home as they are shielded or critically vulnerable, will take up this to support their colleagues and also to ensure, you continue to get prompt responses.

Preparation and Planning

Note: Our school will be closed to all but Key Worker children on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June for staff training and the rearrangement of the physical spaces ready to accommodate the new groupings of children. On Wednesday 3rd June, school will be open to Year 6 and key worker children ONLY. This staggered start will allow us to identify and rectify any potential issues that might arise on those first days. We will still be offering places to our key worker / vulnerable children on the Monday and Tuesday. **THESE PLACES MUST BE BOOKED IN THE USUAL WAY, USING A BOOKING FORM.**

Monday 1 st June	Tuesday 2 nd June	Wednesday 3 rd June	Thursday 4 th June	Friday 5 th June
Key Worker Children and SLT	Keyworker Children Staff who need to finalise classroom preparations may be in school, but this should be agreed with the SLT in advance to reduce numbers in the building.	Keyworker Children Year 6	Keyworker Children Year 6	Keyworker Children Year 6

Monday 8 th June	Tuesday 9 th June	Wednesday 10 th June	Thursday 11 th June	Friday 12 th June
Keyworker Children Year 6 Reception	Keyworker Children Year 6 Reception	Keyworker Children Year 6 Reception Year 1	Keyworker Children Year 6 Reception Year 1	Keyworker Children Year 6 Reception Year 1

In Conclusion

I want to reassure you that we are looking forward to being able to open to more of our pupils over the coming months if we are able to do so. We will, as always, communicate with you fully, openly and promptly as plans evolve and change as more information from the government becomes available.

We will do all we can to welcome your children back into a warm environment, and we have put a whole pastoral and well-being plan into place to support children's transition back into a school

environment which will look and be very different to the one they left. Making your children feel happy and safe in school is our utmost priority.

Main points in this letter:

- 1. We don't know when schools will open to more children yet*
- 2. We won't know until the 28th May*
- 3. We will do our best, but we cannot guarantee that all children will follow the safety rules*
- 4. You have to decide if this offer is right for your child*
- 5. Only Key Worker / vulnerable children will be in school on Mon 1st /Tues 2nd*
- 6. Year 6 children will be invited to return on Wednesday 3rd*
- 7. Year R children will be invited to return on Mon 8th*
- 8. Year 1 children will be invited to return on Wed 10th*
- 9. ALL other year groups will remain at home until further notice*
- 10. If you have informed us that your child will be returning from 1st June (at the earliest), you will receive further information later today.*

If you have any further questions which you would like clarifying, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

With very best wishes

Nicola Bray

*Nicola Bray
Head Teacher*

With the support of Mr William Robinson, Chair of Governors