



Mongleath Road
Falmouth
Cornwall
TR11 4PW

Telephone: 01326 314540

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www.st-marys-fal.cornwall.sch.uk

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

Our school has been available for the children of key workers and vulnerable children since the lockdown began on 23rd March, and staff have been supporting the home learning whilst we 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.





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- Where it is safe to do so provision must include Nursery, Reception and Year 1, or any safe combination of these year groups.
- No year group other than those specified by the government, N, 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.

Through a detailed risk assessment, we have concluded that St. Mary's has the capacity to cater for all children in Year 1 and Year 6. These two year groups will be able to attend school every day, not on a two day/ three day rota, as previously advised.

The children will be expected to wear school uniform. It is important that normal hygiene standards are maintained and children's clothes are clean daily. If you have any problems with your child's uniform, please contact the school office. All children will be given a specified day to wear their school P.E. kit. For the key worker/ vulnerable group this will be a Wednesday, Year 1 will be a Thursday, Year 6 Bubble 1 on Fridays and Year 6 Bubble 2 on Thursdays.

There will be staggered times for dropping your child off at school and picking them up. It is important that parents arrive at the allocated time as this will ensure less adults and children are together, and social distancing can be maintained, keeping everyone safe. We ask that you wait with your child in line on the social distancing markings that will be outside the school gate at the exact time you have been given. Your child will then be met by the adult in charge of their group 'bubble' and taken into school. They will then wash their hands one at a time before going to their allocated classroom. Your child's group may not be in their usual classroom. If your child is struggling to come into school, the adult in charge will, with your permission, take your child's hand and lead them in. We will ensure that both the adult's and your child's hands are washed as soon as they are inside.

At pick up time, we ask parents again to adhere to the social distance guidelines. The children will be taken out to the gate and handed over to their parent/guardian. Under no circumstances will parents be allowed inside the school gates onto the playground or into





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the school building unless a prior appointment has been made, we would appreciate your support with this matter.

Children have been split into small group 'bubbles' and they will remain in these groups with the same adults. The classrooms have tables and chairs 2 metres apart (the amount we can fit in each room varies depending on the room size, but they do not exceed the government guideline of 15 children) and your child will be allocated their own desk and equipment. They will also use this space for their coat, lunchbox and named drinks bottle, which they may bring into school. Please can they also bring a sunhat and have a long-lasting sun cream applied before arriving at school. Children must not bring any other things into school; they will not be allowed to bring in a bag, P.E. kit or toys, regardless of the size of the toy. Children will not be given anything to take home including reading books, this is to avoid cross contamination. Please make use of the free books available in the ebook library on 'Oxford Owl' and continue with your Accelerated Reader quizzes in Y2-Y6. All soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms and surfaces cleared. Any equipment used will be thoroughly washed at the end of the school day. The children will not take part in any activities that require sharing resources. The children will be following the curriculum for their year group, planned by their class teacher. This will include daily Maths and English sessions. We will do our best to ensure lessons are as fun and as engaging as practically possible and hope to include lots of outdoor learning. Classroom touch points such as the door handles, light switches etc will be wiped down by the adult in charge every half an hour.

Children will eat their lunch at their desks in their allocated classroom and bubble. Mrs. Slater will be continuing to provide lunch although the menu will be limited to one hot option (including a vegetarian option) and jacket potatoes. The children will have playtimes and lunch breaks staggered to enable social distancing within their bubbles. If your child is in Reception, Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5 and they are entitled to a free school meal, Mrs. Slater will continue to provide her food deliveries as usual.

If your child is not in these year groups, this letter has been sent to you because the school is aware that you are a key worker or fall under our priority category. If you are a key worker and your child is in Y1 or Y6, they will join their class bubble. The key worker provision will start at 8am every day and will finish at 3:30pm. Your child will enter school via the school





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office for this provision. Please could you continue to keep the school informed of the days you will need. Due to the varying age ranges within this group, all work will be topic based and your child will be given a time to complete their online learning. Children in this group will need to bring a packed lunch. If your child is entitled to FSM, Mrs. Slater will continue to provide your food package as usual. We also ask that children in this group do not bring anything else into school other than a packed lunch, coat and sunhat. They will need to wear school uniform that is clean each day. If they are with us on a Wednesday, please can they wear their P.E. kit, as there will be P.E. for the children on this day.

Please see your child's group and times below. Groups have been allocated according to children that we know will definitely be in from 1st June. If you have informed us that your child will not be returning, or if you were unsure, we have allocated your child a drop-off and pick-up time in case you would like your child to join us at school. Please call the office to give notice that you would like your child to return to school, so that we can ensure staffing has been arranged appropriately. All children must be collected from school and not walk home alone due to social distancing rules. If this poses a particular problem for your family circumstances, please contact the school.

(This is where groups for Year 1 and Year 6 will appear in the letter that will be posted to these year groups).

Online learning will continue for all year groups although this will not include a daily video from the class teacher. A short video along with five English, five Maths and five 'Topic' activities will be uploaded on Showbie or Tapestry every Monday to be completed throughout the week. This work will mirror the work set in class for the year groups that have returned. Please do not upload work for teachers but save it for when all children are back in school as teachers will now be part of the in-school daily provision.

Attached to this letter are some photographs of the classrooms as they now are. Please could you show them to your children to best prepare them for the change in environment before they arrive. Your child may not be in their usual classroom. Also attached is an appendix to our behaviour policy, please also share this with your child. We fully appreciate everyone's anxieties about our children returning to school and will do our best to make the children happy under such unusual circumstances. Please do not feel under pressure either





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way about bringing your child into school, as everyone's situation is very different at the moment and we do understand.

Due to the severity of the current situation, please do not bring your child to school if they are unwell. The current government guidelines around self and family isolation still remain in place. If your child becomes unwell while they are in school, they will be put into a quarantine room and parents will be called to collect their child immediately. For this reason, please could you make sure the office has your most up to date contact details. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

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

Demelza Bolton

Executive Headteacher, St. Mary's Catholic Primary





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