



## St. Mary's CE Primary School

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### COVID-19 - Possible Return to School

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you for the patience and understanding you have shown in waiting for further information about the possible return to school and for your responses to our most recent survey. Some of you have contacted us with queries and I hope that these will be answered in this letter or the sample information attached.

We all have lots of questions and I will be honest with you, we don't have all of the answers. There is a letter circulating from Wandsworth Council that says schools are opening because Head Teachers feel it is safe to do so. There is not enough information or understanding of Coronavirus for any of us without expertise to judge what may or may not be safe. The only thing that can be said about the opening of schools is that some schools are opening because the government have asked them to. It is important that parent/carers make their own decision about whether it is safe for their child to return to school and I want to assure you that whatever decision you make you will receive our full support.

Attendance at school is not compulsory and although the Department has asked us to record attendance it has assured schools that these figures will only be used to monitor the COVID-19 situation.

As you will know, we are awaiting a confirmation announcement from the government and further advice from trade unions before we begin to invite larger numbers of children back to school. It is evident from our initial planning that, given the large numbers of positive responses, we will not be able to accommodate all of the year groups we have surveyed so far. With that in mind, I am writing to reassure you that we have made a clear plan for a staggered return to school for **some** cohorts – starting with Year Six - which enables us all to carry on learning, provides ongoing support for our key worker families whilst bringing cohorts back in a measured and thoughtful way.

Government guidance is constantly changing in response to an ever evolving situation. Although we have made plans for further cohorts (Year One and then Reception) to return over time, the chance of further change announcements are high; and for that reason, I am going to delay sharing the wider plan at this point to avoid creating confusion and disarray. Please bear with us as we try to respond in the best way possible to the government's requests – your understanding and support so far have been greatly valued and have allowed us time and space to really consider what is being asked of us.

School will be closed to all children over the half term break and home learning will not be sent over this period. I think it is important that children and their families as well as staff have some kind of break from school, even if it might not be the one we have planned/are used to. Home learning will recommence on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June and packs will be condensed to allow teachers to work more hours in school balancing home and school learning going forwards.

If the government announces that it would like schools to begin to reopen **from** 1<sup>st</sup> June then we will send a brief ParentMail to all parent/carers on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to confirm the following: The **provisional** plan is that school will be closed on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to allow staff to attend school to undertake training and to ready

the learning spaces for children. School will be closed every Friday to allow for thorough cleaning and to allow continuous planning for teaching and learning for all learners at home and at school to take place.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we will invite **Year Six** into school in two bubbles – please see the accompanying information sheet for further information. Bubbles will form the main protective factor in school. Staffing and children in bubbles will remain constant. Bubbles will then be kept separate to avoid cross contamination and possible exposure to COVID-19.

Also on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we will invite two bubbles of **Key Worker** children to attend school on this day. We will be in contact with these families separately to confirm attendance. If you have not yet sent in a letter from your employer for a new key worker application, then please do so as soon as possible otherwise your child may not be allocated a place in school.

The government has recommended that staff and pupils do not generally wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in school, except when staff or children fall ill. PPE will be worn by staff when managing children who have fallen ill in school, wearing a mask, visor, apron and gloves; or when entering a bubble that they are not normally apart of in an emergency or other urgent situation. Staff will avoid contact with other staff members outside of their bubble and have also been asked to adhere to social distancing guidance when not in school.

The emphasis, if, and as children return to school will be on well-being. We thank you all for keeping in touch during this period of closure but if there is anything further you feel we would benefit from knowing about your child's experience during lockdown then please email your class teacher and copy in the school's safeguarding lead where relevant: [head@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk)

Children at home and school will cover roughly the same work, although obviously work will differ and there will be more interaction between pupils and staff at school. Work in school and the gradual return of some cohorts to school will be prioritised.

When children are settled then the curriculum will focus on the learning of core skills on ensuring learning during closure is consolidated and work will be planned to meet need as far as possible – although children will be at different points in their learning depending on what they have been doing at home. Year Six work will also focus on the transfer to secondary school and staff will begin to liaise with schools to exchange records and key information.

Please read the document, 'Daily Procedures for Children and Parents in Year Six', for further information on how school and some of our policies and practices will be slightly different for the foreseeable future. As we bring additional cohorts to school the information will be more or less the same but specific to each class.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming some of our children back to school soon but please remember that these plans are provisional and subject to change.

I hope you all continue to be safe and well.

Best wishes



Cheryl Payne  
Head Teacher