



St Mary's R.C. Primary and Nursery School

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School Newsletter

Friday 22nd May 2020

Potential Re-opening of schools

This week I have been able to share with you our plans in relation to the wider re-opening of school to designated year groups (EYFS, Y1 and Y6). In detailing these plans, I am also mindful that at this stage the government have still **not** indicated that it is safe for schools to open in early June. The earliest date the government will make this announcement is 28th May. Please be advised that schools do not receive any advance notice with regard to these announcements and be assured that **St Mary's will only re-open when advised by the government that it is safe to do**. We have worked towards a re-opening date of 8th June, but it may be later. Over the half term break, we will continue to keep abreast of the latest advice and guidance and communicate our plans to you accordingly.

Working on the assumption that schools will re-open in early June our planned re-opening schedule is outlined below

Wk b/g 8 th June	Key Worker children and Y6 pupils
Wk b/g 15 th June	Key Worker children, Y6 pupils plus Y1 pupils
Wk b/g 22 nd June	Key Worker children, Y6 and Y1 pupils plus Reception (F2) pupils
Wk b/g 29 th June	Key Worker children, Y6, Y1, F2 pupils plus Nursery (F1) pupils

The safety of your child/ren is our absolute number 1 priority, in line with government guidance, we have implemented protective measures both for children and staff. These are summarized below:

- Pupils are grouped in 'Social Bubbles' of 15 (max) with 2 adults allocated to each group
- Staggered start / finish times using separate entrances
- Staggered break / lunchtime
- Individual desks placed 2m apart, individual work and stationary packs
- Social distancing throughout school
- One-way system
- Frequent handwashing regime
- Hygiene Stations in each class
- Installation of sanitizer stands at key points in school

Please refer to my letter dated 20th May for full details of the protective measures which are in place. Please be mindful that no matter how hard we try we cannot eradicate all risk in school.

Given the previous information, from 8th June school will be working in a very different way. In addition, the planned re-integration of further year groups in subsequent weeks mean that **our start / finish time and timetables will need to be reviewed on a weekly basis.**

For week beginning 8th June, we have been able to offer Y6 pupils 5 days in school. **As pupil numbers increase, it is likely at some stage we will need to revise this offer and introduce part-time attendance.** We simply do not have the space or staff to accommodate all of our pupils in groups of 15. As I understand the government is in the process of developing guidance for schools in relation to this concern.

Online Home-Learning Resources (for EYFS, KS1 and Years 3, 4 and 5

The next set of online home-learning resources will be available for the above year groups on the website on 8th June. These resources can be found the class pages. It is intended that this work covers the two-week period until 19th June. It is our intention to continue providing online Home-Learning Resources until all pupils are back in school. Your response to these resources has been fantastic. We appreciate that every family's circumstances are different. Please just do what you can with your child, prioritising English and Maths. There is no compulsion to complete the activities. We understand the enormous pressures that families are under at this time and do not wish to add to it in any way.

If Y6 pupils return to school on 8th June as planned, we will no longer provide online learning resources for this year group. For Y6 pupils who are not returning to school we advise parents to use the resources provided by Oak National Academy or BBC Bitesize. Both are highly recommended.

Class DoJo

Parents of pupils in Y1 to Y5 should now have received an invite to join Class DoJo. This application allows parents to communicate directly with your child's Class teacher. The children can upload their work to an individual portfolio and receive feedback from his/her teacher. Feedback from Y5 parents who trialed this application has been very positive.



'Keeping Informed' – office@stmarysdenton.com

Over the half term period, we will continue to post updates on the website, so please check the news section of the website on a regular basis (stmarysdenton.com). We will also continue to use our texting and email service. Please email school if your contact details have changed (office@stmarysdenton.com).

From 8th June, it would be really helpful when contacting school if you could direct your questions to the relevant member of staff.

EYFS and KS1 pupil work related questions	Mrs Haste
KS2 pupil work related questions	Mr Whittle
Safeguarding	Ms Reeves
SEND	Mrs Farrell
Free School Meals	Mrs Fitzgerald

National Thank A Teacher Day

On 20th May, it was national 'Thank a Teacher Day'. On this day, teachers across the country are thanked and celebrated every year. I would like to say a personal thank you not only to our teachers, but also our teaching assistants and all our support staff for their amazing work, not only during the lockdown period but all year round. This week alone, staff have worked tirelessly to transform the school environment to enable us to re-open safely on 8th June (subject to government authorization). We do not want child/ren to miss any more school days than are absolutely necessary.



Laudato Si' Resources

From Saturday 16th May to Friday 24th May, Catholics across the world will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the publication of 'Laudato Si': Care for our Common Home'. The Catholic Education Service have produced resources to help us to celebrate at home: <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/laudato-si-resources>.

School will be closed to all pupils from Monday 25th May until Friday 5th June for the May half-term break. We re-open to Key Worker children and hopefully Y6 pupils on Monday 8th June. We wish all our families a happy and safe holiday. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey