

ST MATTHEW'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you are all keeping well through these challenging and unprecedented times. I know it hasn't been easy for anyone to adapt to the lockdown measures and we certainly don't underestimate the impact it is having on our children. On Monday we look forward to welcoming some of our pupils back into the building as part of the wider opening of schools. This is a phased return for pupils from Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 6 in a small group (bubble) with children assigned to specific bubbles. Bubbles have also been allocated specific dates and times to attend school – see previous letter.

Childcare Provision

We continue to offer this provision as outlined by the Department for Education (DfE) based on the premise that it is safer for children to stay at home wherever possible. We appreciate that employers are having to adjust to home working for employees and we understand this may not be sustainable in some cases. This childcare provision bubble has a cap of 15 places. If you find it impossible to keep your child at home due to work commitments outside of the home please contact school to see if we can support you in our childcare provision.

Phased Return of Pupils to School

The government had indicated they would like a phased return for pupils in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1 June 2020. This timescale had been an aspiration, the governors met on Wednesday 10 June to consider the risk assessments required for opening and the plan for the phased return. Please be assured that in reaching the decision, the safety of our school community was paramount. The governors agreed to the wider opening of school based upon the Risk Assessments undertaken and the changes put in place by the school leadership.

Planning for the Phased Return (Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 6) - Week Beginning 15 June 2020

We are aware that many of you will not be sending your child(ren) into school for the phased return and thank you for letting us know.

Our current planning is to have classes split into smaller groups (bubbles) and that your child(ren) will attend in their group (bubble) as outlined previously. These groups will stay together at all times and will not mix with other groups or share equipment. Cleaning regimes will be intensive and risk assessments deal with all aspects to reduce the risk of cross contamination.

Year 6 Updates

Thank you all for engaging with Miss Wiblin on Google Classroom during lockdown. All of the hard work and effort prior to lockdown is appreciated and recognised by us all. Unfortunately the specific preparation for SATs didn't culminate in you taking the tests this year, but rest assured it will help you in preparation for any future tests and assessments.

The transition to secondary school will be different this year and we will forward/publish anything we receive from each secondary school. Some of the work in 'bubbles' will concentrate on transition



activities. Staff from some of the secondary schools have already been in touch with school to arrange conversations with your Class Teacher and the school SENCO where appropriate.

It is our intention to invite all of Year 6 back for their Leavers' Mass and a celebration of their time in school, with the whole school community and parents present. It is hoped that this will be possible in September 2020 although it will be dependent upon government guidelines. IT WILL HAPPEN at some point in the future when restrictions are lifted and we will try to compensate for the disruption caused by the current lockdown.

Whole School Phased Return 1 July 2020

There will be no whole school return before September 2020.

Last week of term week beginning Monday 13 July 2020

School will be closed to all pupils (including keyworker child care provision) in the last week of term, except for Tuesday 14 July 2020 when we will be open to all Year 6 pupils from 9 am to 1 pm.

School Uniform

We would normally now be taking orders in school for school uniform for September 2020. We have decided to move to an online system for ordering and details will be with you soon – hopefully by Wednesday 17 June 2020. We will let you know once this online facility is in place.

Summer Holiday

Please note school will close on Friday 17 July 2020 and reopen on Tuesday 8 September 2020. During the summer break we have building and maintenance work planned. The school will not be open for summer play schemes or any other programmes currently being mentioned in the media.

Return to School in September 2020

We are not in a position to know what the possibilities will be for the re-opening of school in September and how school will operate. Rest assured the governors will be looking at all of the proposals and guidelines issued from the DfE to get school back to 'normal' as quickly as possible BUT only when it is safe to do so.

All updates will be published on the school website www.stmatthewsrc.org and you will be informed by text message when there are updates available for you.