



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully this week you have all been able to access the transition videos posted by the class teachers on Google Classrooms and you have encouraged your child to ask any questions that they wanted to ask. As I said last week Plymouth CAST have chosen Google Classroom as the platform for all their schools to use moving forward. We are currently planning for lots of different scenarios in September but the main one is that if we are directed to close a 'Bubble' and instruct staff and children to go into self-isolation for 2 weeks then the same content that had been planned to be taught for those two weeks would be taught via Google Classroom.



This 'Blended Learning' model will become the new norm and as a result the teachers will be planning lessons on the best way to access and use the classroom when we return in September. There are 2 options on this platform, 'Google Hangouts' and 'Google Meets', which work in a similar way to Zoom. We are hoping to access more training on this and then we can also deliver live lessons. To enable this to work in September all families will need to have access to the internet and a device which can access 'Google Classrooms'. If this is a worry to you please contact the office and we will see what we can do to help.

I know that you are all desperate to know the arrangements for September and although I have not had my risk assessment and action plans signed off by our Trust yet I wanted to give you an outline of how we envisage school will run in September. We will have to use staggered starts and finishes as well as at breaks and lunchtimes. As you can imagine this is a logistical nightmare and will not be easy for anyone; especially those of you with more than one child in school. Each year group is classed as a 'Bubble'. We have to avoid 'Bubbles' mixing and only teachers can move between the 'Bubbles'.

The following times will be confirmed next week but hopefully they will not change:

Drop off: 8.30-8.40am Pick up: 2.55pm		
Year 6 Bottom gate, through car park, in through the Art room.	Year 3 Normal morning gate, walk in through the front entrance.	FS2 Side gate and stand socially distanced in the playground.

"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"

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Drop off: 8.45-8.55am		Pick up: 3.10pm	
Year 4	Bottom gate, through car park, to the outside doors of Year 4.	Year 2	Normal morning gate, straight to Year 2 classrooms.

Drop off: 9.00-9.10am		Pick up: 3.25pm	
Year 5	Bottom gate, through car park and round the outside to Year 5.	Year 1	Normal morning gate, straight to Year 1 classrooms.

In the first term there will unfortunately be no after school activity clubs as we cannot mix 'Bubbles' of children.

We are planning to hold Before School and After School Club childcare provision but to enable us to provide distancing between the groups these will have to be held in the hall. To accommodate this we have had to put some restrictions on timings for drop off and pick up as we cannot have families coming into school. We will also be restricted on numbers so will require, without exception, all children to be booked in advance.

Breakfast Club will still have 2 drop off times but unfortunately cars cannot be driven into school. There will be an adult to meet and greet the children but you will need to arrive between those times.

Session 1 – From 7.30-7.40am

Drop off – main gate for Breakfast club.

Session 2 - From 8.00-8.10am

Drop off – main gate for Breakfast club.

After school club – cars cannot be driven in to school to collect children.

Session 1 – From the end of school.

Pick up - 4.25-4.35pm from the main gate

Session 2 – From the end of school.

Pick up - 5.25- 5.35pm from the main gate

The reason for the After School Club early finish is because we have to thoroughly clean all the equipment and facilities used daily and this needs to be done before school closes at 6pm. Hopefully it is just for the short term and we will be able to resume normal hours and arrangements in the future. You will receive a letter about this in the next few days detailing the booking arrangements.

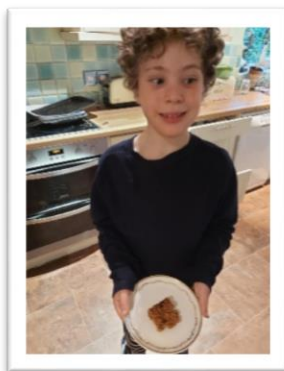
The other key piece of information that I need to share with you now is that because we are using the hall for Before School and After School Clubs we may not be able to provide 'Hot School Meals'. We will review this during the first half term to see if we can accommodate them. We are currently working with our provider for a solution and as soon as we have a copy of the menu we will share it with you. All children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One will of course have access to a lunch as part of the 'Universal Free School Meal Offer'. Children in Key Stage 2 who are eligible for Free School Meals will also have a lunch which they will eat with their 'Bubble' in the classroom. If you would like to order a lunch for your child we will send the order forms out as soon as we have agreed the menu with our provider.

For many families 'Covid 19' has brought about a change in circumstance. If you have been affected and feel that you may now be eligible for Free School Meals then please drop an email to the office FAO Mrs Hazell and she will help you to apply. Being FSM also enables you access to other benefits for your child, please see our website <https://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/website> . Please do not hesitate to ask.

In writing my risk assessments and doing my action plans I have realised that you as parents have the most difficult job of all in September. Not only have you to juggle new timings but you also have to work out how to get your child to the gate in a socially distanced manner. The parents of our Foundation Stage pupils, Year 6 and the Key worker families currently accessing school have been excellent at doing this and I know that you will all continue to do the same when we return in September.



This week we have received 9 more entries to Virtual Bake off. Mrs Reyes has said that the standard is very high and that you are being very adventurous with your extra added ingredients. The closing date was today but we have extended it to Monday to allow me time to do mine! So please don't forget to send yours in.



We had great news about our support of Mission and their 'Day of Many Colours' we made it onto their website. Your 'Reaching Out Hands' were so fantastic and I thank you for taking part in this. The article said "Children's

prayers and big smiles brought us much happiness and hope as we celebrated this year's Day Of Many Colours during lockdown. A huge 'thank you!' to everyone who took part." You can go to the website via this link <https://missiontogether.org.uk/day-of-many-colours-2020-mission-together-supporters-reach-out/>

As we prepare for our return in September I wanted to let you know that we have lots of good quality second hand uniform available in school. If there is something you require please send an email to the office stating what you would like and the size and we will let you know if we have what you require and you can come and collect it.



Thank you for your patience and your continued support. If you need any help, support or advice please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher