



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

20th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

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

Government guidelines stipulate that classes should be halved into groups of less than 15 children. To implement this and ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and adults, we cannot cater for all eligible children (Reception, Year 1, Key Worker / Vulnerable children and Year 6). Consequently, in the first phase of opening schools further and by following Plymouth CAST instruction we will only be inviting children from Reception, Year 6 and Key Worker / Vulnerable children into school.

A letter will be sent out today to all parents of children in Reception, and Year 6 today outlining arrangements for 1st June. A letter will be also sent out to Y1 parents. Arrangements for Key Worker and Vulnerable children will remain the same as present.

Please be aware that all arrangements are subject to change due to the current situation.

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 faithfully,



Raymond Friel
CEO, Plymouth CAST



Helen Armstrong
Headteacher, St Mary's Catholic Primary School