



9th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Wider reopening

As many of you know, we have remained open nearly every day since the lockdown began, providing care for our vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

Last week we re-opened for Foundation, Year One and Year Six on a part-time basis. The children were amazing; they were so happy to be back with their friends and came into school with such positive attitudes. Their behaviour was excellent and they really respected the social distancing that is required of them (though did need some reminders to begin with). One of our concerns was that the children would find it difficult to play at playtimes but they were wonderful; they enjoyed each other's company and found ways to play together but keep apart. The children have really been a credit to their families and to our school. It was so lovely to walk around school hearing their chatter and laughter and seeing happy, smiling faces.

## Year One Drop Off and Collection

Thank you for your patience with the changes to drop off and collection last week. We would like to tighten this up a little to ensure that there is as little congestion as possible near the school gates. Could I please ask parents of Hockney class to drop off and collect from St Mary's Road gate rather than Station Road gate? We will add some social distancing markers onto the wall/fence to encourage social distancing and we will call the children in one at a time and dismiss in the same way. Please be patient. This is for the safety of all.

## Transition

There are still many unknowns for our children, however we are busy planning classes and staffing for next year. Decisions regarding the make-up of classes are being finalised. I would like to reassure you that no decision, particularly in relation to staffing and class organisation, is made lightly. When we make a decision, we will take many factors into consideration, for example age, ability, gender, friendships, behaviour and any additional needs, to name but a few.

It is not the simplistic task it can sometimes be perceived to be, but rather a professional decision that we take very seriously. With school being closed to the majority since March 20<sup>th</sup>, the decision making is even more important and we will let you know as soon as we can which class your child will be in next academic year.

## Home Learning

Staff have continued to post weekly Home Learning on the website. Please continue to send in any photos of this so that the staff can continue to connect with their classes. I love browsing through the pages to see what everyone has been doing.

If you have not drawn a picture of yourself to go on the school railings, please do so and post through the post box on Station Road.

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### **Dream, Believe, Achieve!**

Perhaps children in Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 would like to take part in the Puffin Festival of Big Dreams? This started yesterday. It is a week-long book festival to celebrate Puffin's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and further information can be found at <https://www.penguin.co.uk/puffin/dream-big.html>

### **Reading Challenge**

Leicestershire Libraries are running a summer reading challenge which started on Friday 5th June. For more information and to join in the fun please visit <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

### **Help and Support**

Please remember that if you have any worries or concerns, you can contact Mrs Peden our Family Support Worker, at any time and she will signpost you to any support that is available. Her email address is [family-support@stmarys.leics.sch.uk](mailto:family-support@stmarys.leics.sch.uk) Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### **Finally**

Over the past few months, we have seen the world change around us. Our children have been very much sheltered from this, remaining at home and not experiencing as much as adults in regards to conforming to social distancing in supermarkets and public spaces. The new set up of the school and the school site with spacing markers, staggered starts, playtimes, lunchtimes and home times will all be very new to the children. We will always do our best to support them and ensure that they feel safe and well cared for, this will be our 'new normal' but I am sure that the amazing St. Mary's family will get through this together!

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Ayres  
Head Teacher