



June 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well.

I wanted to write to you all following the Secretary of State's clarification last week regarding the government's position on the full opening of primary schools for a month before the end of term. He has accepted that most schools (particularly primaries) do not have the capacity, in terms of both physical space and teachers, to welcome back all children, but went on to say that if schools do have capacity, then the government would like them to accommodate the return of more children before the end of the summer term.

At present, because of the physical size of our school, and the structure we have planned for the groups who have already returned to school along with the expanding number of children requiring our key worker provision, I have to be honest with you and say that, unfortunately, we currently do not have the capacity to take any more children at this time while current social distancing restrictions apply and class sizes are limited to 15 or less. Our classrooms safely hold 7 children in Key Stages 1 and 2 and 10 in Foundation Stage. A limiting factor for us also is the fact that staff cannot be part of two bubbles.

**DfE guidance - 'Limiting class sizes, keeping consistent groups and preventing mixing, will allow more children to return to school.'**

We understand that this situation is far from ideal and is frustrating for both yourselves and more importantly, your children. You, and they, will have many questions about the future, some of which we cannot answer ourselves at the moment.

As a staff, we all feel concerned for the children who remain at home. We know that the vast majority have been keeping up with their home learning, but this can never replace the experience of physically being at school. If we were able to bring everyone back safely, believe me we would do it. We have loved having Year F, 1 and 6 back in school plus our key worker children but miss the other year groups very much.

If you feel that your child is struggling and would benefit from some advice please email myself via the school office or Mrs Peden our family support worker [family-support@stmarys.leics.sch.uk](mailto:family-support@stmarys.leics.sch.uk) and we will help in the best way we can.

Like you, I am eagerly awaiting the next announcement from government to find out what arrangements for September will be. Thankfully, the number of new infections and deaths from Covid-19 continue to fall almost daily at present and, as the Covid-19 alert level has moved from four to three today, we are hopeful that September may bring the opportunity for a more normal start to the school year. I will update you with plans as soon as I know.

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Headteacher: Mrs R Ayres

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## **Virtual Sports Week**

I hope that you and your families will join in with the activities that Mr Bond has planned next week. I look forward to seeing your score cards and any photos.

## **Reports**

These will be posted out to parents on July 1<sup>st</sup> and I will comment on your child's progress during the Autumn and Spring Terms.

## **Governor Update**

*During these unprecedented times, the governing body has continued to hold virtual meetings to ensure that the statutory requirements for the safety of the school are upheld. We have had regular updates from Mrs Ayres and are supportive and confident in the way school is continuing to run. The safety of your children, staff and parents are our number one concern. We are reassured that staff are working hard to provide educational resources online for many pupils and we enjoy looking at the uploaded photos of their work.*

*I am pleased to announce that we have a new governor, Mr Luke Robinson whose details you will be able to see on the website shortly.*

*We send good wishes to our Year 6 pupils who are leaving this year to begin their education in their chosen secondary school. We wish them and all pupils who are leaving for other reasons every success.*

*We trust that we will be able to return to our "new normal" shortly and meet up again to continue to make school a happy, secure, and loving environment for your children.*

**Judith Williams (Chair of Governors)**

Finally, I want to thank you for your support over the past couple of months as it has made a very difficult situation much more manageable and ensured we have all been able to stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Ayres  
Headteacher