



# St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs B Pratley

Friday 22nd May, 2020

Dear St Mary's parents and children,

We continue to remember all our families and extended families in our thoughts and prayers over this very challenging time. We hope that you are all continuing to keep well and sane!

I would like to thank the parents who are working for the NHS and other key services for their commitment over this time, continuing to work, save lives and keeping the country running.

For the rest of us, being at home during lockdown can be very trying. I hope families are able to get outdoors most days for fresh air and exercise.

We are very excited about being able to have more children attend school after the 1st June. Staff have continued to work hard and plan interesting work for you all, but school just hasn't been the same without you. Once children in a yeargroup have been offered a place back at school, teachers will continue to put work on Google Classrooms or email it out, but the level of contact they will be able to offer will be reduced.

We are preparing to open for Year 1 pupils and a small group of EYFS children (from 1st June). Any parent who wants to have their child return must let the school know as soon as possible. Parents do not have to send children back to school, but if you change your mind you need to let us know, sign the home-school agreement, and be aware that children may only start on a Monday (giving us time to group children). We will confirm final arrangements by Friday 29th May.

We are then planning to open for Reception children later that week or the following week, and for Year 6 children the week beginning 8th June, but the exact day and times will be confirmed.

Mondays—school uniform day. Tuesday—Thursday—own clothes. **No school Friday.**



## Muga Pitch

Meet Theo—he drives a crane or a digger.

He has been hard at work during the past week repairing the muga pitch so that it will be ready for children to use in the second half of the summer term.

We know that repairing the muga-pitch was top on our children's wish list—so Year 6 will have this to look forward to when they return on 8th June.

School life will be very different when you all come back, but we want to make sure that all children who come back to school in the Summer term have a wonderful experience at school.

## Social Distancing in School

What is it like being at school at the moment? We asked our Key Worker children this question.

'We still have fun but in different ways, even though we have to social distance .' (Pelumi)

'It's different because we need to socially distance and we do more work on computers.' (Richard)



Once children return to school, it is expected that children are aware of the need to socially distance. We are aware that at times this will be difficult, and so children will be in small groups—'bubbles' - which will not mix in any way with other 'bubbles'. Each bubble will be organized into groups of 12 or 13 children. Children will have their own space and tray in the classroom to stop the spread of germs.

## New Sitting Area

We have installed some beautiful landscaping features in our Key Stage 1 and Reception playground.



The children who are attending school for child-care have enjoyed sitting in the shade during play times. We are working hard to make our school ready for everyone when they return.

## Steps we are taking to keep children safe:

1. Staggered start and finishing time for different yeargroups
2. Set table spaces in Year 1 and Year 6
3. Separate play and lunch times
4. Lunches to be delivered to classrooms (EYFS and Year 6) or in small groups in the hall (Year 1).
5. Small group sizes (depending on how many return)
6. No parents on site except when collecting children at the end of the day
7. Revised rules for the situation (parents and children to sign the home-school agreement)
8. Regular schedule of cleaning in school
9. Regular handwashing routines for all.