



ST. MARY'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr D Miller

7th July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

On Thursday 2nd July the [Government announced and published new guidance about the full reopening of schools](#) which will apply in the autumn term and also some [information for parents and carers](#). We would like to clarify childcare arrangements throughout the summer holiday period and also share the likely arrangements for September (as per the new guidance).

Over the summer holiday

- The government will not be asking schools to open over the summer holidays for **vulnerable pupils and critical workers**. Parents who are critical workers can find information about day-care, childminders and other childcare providers, that remain open and have capacity from this website:

<http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/kb5/durham/fsd/results.page?familychannel=5055621>

School will close to all pupils on Friday 17th July at 3:30pm.

- The school meal voucher scheme will continue this term and over the summer holiday. Parents eligible (benefits based free school meals) will be issued with one voucher prior to the summer holiday which will cover the entire 6-week period.
- Pupils are invited to complete a summer holiday learning pack, which will be uploaded to the school website on Friday 17th July, if they wish. We know that not all parents will want to complete more home learning and the activities are optional and seek to be supportive (not burdensome) to children and families.

Wider re-opening after the summer holiday

The clear message from the government is that all pupils will return to school in September and we are optimistic that we will be able to prepare on this basis. The new guidance requires lots of measures to be worked through and put into place but it does have less constraints on numbers and social distancing, and gives schools much more flexibility in order to make things work in each unique environment.



- To reduce mixing and transition, it is likely that we will still have a staggered start and end to the day. If you have more than one child in school, we will likely ask that you please drop off and collect at the latest of the two times.
- It is likely that the current one-way system for dropping off and collecting children will remain the same and that parents will be required to enter and exit the school site via the same identified gates as are in operation now (please see video on the school Facebook page).
- Playtimes and lunchtimes are likely to be staggered and areas of the yard zoned to allow for separation of year groups.
- Control measures which promote good hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cleaning regimes, will remain important.
- It is likely that the school will be using class bubbles for the majority of the day and that mixing with other pupils will not occur.
- We will not be offering breakfast club or after school provision in the first term. This will be reviewed in December and may be reinstated after Christmas.
- We will be offering a hot school meal option though the choice and arrangements (timing, where pupils will eat their lunch etc.) may need to be different from the norm. We plan to stagger lunches and use a mixture of the dining hall and classrooms to keep year groups separate.
- The school will develop plans to further enhance home learning (in the event of localised lockdowns such as the one in Leicester or a partial closure in the event of confirmed cases within the school).
- We will also develop catch up programmes for individual pupils, groups or classes that may need this.
- The children will be required to wear school uniform when they return to school in September. Non-branded items are significantly cheaper and more cost effective when buying multiple items; a clean uniform will be essential every day.

We hope to share details more definitively with parents on Friday 17th July.

Best Wishes,
#staysafe

David Miller


