



14/05/20

Dear Parents,

It is now 8 weeks since our school joined other schools nationally in closing our doors as part of the Government's Lockdown Strategy.

We have now been asked to prepare for re-opening to all **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** children on 1st June as part of the next stage in the government's strategy to overcome this virus.

As part of this preparation, we have been asked to carry out a detailed risk assessment based on the documentation provided by the Department for Education.

Within this documentation it details the numbers of children recommended in each class group on their return to be 15 as a maximum. In order to begin preparing groups and organising appropriate staffing for all times of day including lunchtimes and playtimes it will be necessary to know how many children we can expect to attend school from Monday 1st June. We need your support in determining how many children we need to cater for from this date.

The government are encouraging you, as parents, to send your child/ren back to school. However, it is important for you to know that **parents will not be fined if they decide not to send their children into school at this time.**

ACTION 1 for parents of children in Maple (YR), Elm (Y1) & Rowan (Y6) classes:

For parents of children in YR, Y1 & Y6, please contact the school office: office@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk to let us know if you **do not** intend to send your child into school **by Wednesday 18th May** at the latest.

If your child has a sibling in another year group other than Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 he/she will only be able to attend if you are a critical worker or if your child is part of a vulnerable group.

ACTION 2 for critical worker parents who now need their children to come into school from 1st June:

If you are a critical worker who has not sent your child into school before now and need to send them in from 1st June, please email the school office to let us know by **Wednesday 18th May** at the latest:
office@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

We will be following the guidance on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

If our school re-opens after half term, these are the measures we are taking to ensure the safety of all:

- All children and staff on entry to school will wash their hands thoroughly and will be asked to do this at frequent times throughout the day, especially before and after breaks

- Classes will be split into smaller groups and based in a classroom (this will not necessarily be their normal classroom)
- Children will stay in these smaller groups with the same teacher and/or TA, not mixing with other groups.
- Children will work at individual desks, 2m from others, including Maple Class
- Children will use specified equipment and will not be able to share
- Regular cleaning and wiping down of desks, door handles and resources such as laptops, i-pads, toys
- Structured activities and sessions that will require more sitting at desks than is usual in the school setting, these activities will follow a similar format to the home learning
- Staggered/phased/reduced school sessions across the week
- Staggered/phased/adjusted drop-off and pick-up times in different year groups
- Staggered break and lunchtimes to facilitate as much distancing as possible. Children will be asked to keep 2m apart
- Children will sit 2m apart in the lunch hall or if weather permitting children will eat their lunch outside at a 2m distance
- 2m spacing lines for parents at drop-off and pick up times (much like supermarket queuing)
- Maximum of one parent/carer to drop-off and pick-up children
- **'Early Birds and Late Owls' may not be able to take place due to the new guidance of avoiding different groups mixing together. We will confirm this by Friday 22nd May.**

With these measures in place we aim to ensure that the virus will not spread but we cannot guarantee this fully. Firstly, it can be difficult to enforce distancing between young children especially when they are playing together and secondly, we do not have enough information about this virus to be able to predict the devastating effect it can have on some individuals more than others.

We appreciate that there is a lot to consider for everyone but we ask you to think about what is right for you and your child/ren at this point.

You may also find this guidance useful to read:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

When we have a clearer idea of how many children will be returning to school, we will be able to make more specific plans and keep you informed of classrooms to be used, staffing, drop-off and pick-up timings and location.

We thank you for your continued support. It is uncertain when we will gather together as a whole school again and indeed if the partial re-opening will actually take place on Monday 1st June 2020.

We send all our best wishes to you and your families at this time and thank you for your patience as preparations are made for this next stage.

Take care and together we can beat this virus,

Mrs Christopher