

St Mary's RC Primary School

'Growing, loving and learning in the arms of Mary'

*Meadowside
Sunderland
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Headteacher Mr M. Clephane*



Dear parents / carers,

12/6/2020

It is the end of our first week back after opening to the new groups of children and they have taken to their new bubbles and routines really well. We are proud to have the most pupils in full time education in Sunderland, we have not chosen to put pupils on a rota or to work part time. We have not chosen to provide merely childcare for the key workers children but have put the children into specific year group bubbles which means all children at St. Mary's will now be accessing the curriculum. Other schools have not been able to do this and I feel we are truly blessed to be able to run the school in this way while still adhering to safety guidelines.

The take up for places in the key workers group has been overwhelming and this has meant we have exceptionally had to move **Mr Crow from Year 1 to the Year 3 key workers group** to keep bubble numbers safe. We know this will be a concern for some but it had to be done.

We now know that schools will not be open to all children as was originally promised which leaves all of us concerned about the gap in learning despite the great work done by you home school teachers. We all agree that children need to be back in school and finding ways to bridge the gap is very difficult for all of us.

On Monday if your child is in years 1-5 they will receive a pack of CGP work books for Maths and English. If they are in school they will be kept in school but if they are working from home it will be here for you to collect. This is to support your delivery of home learning and can also be used over the summer holidays (but I want to be clear this is at your own discretion as some of you may be looking forward to not home schooling and taking a well-earned rest). For the next few weeks at least you may choose to solely use these work books or as a complement to some of the other work.

Please collect books from main office, enter through the main gate and exit through the car park gate. **USE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

The Governing Body of St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School and the Diocese are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations to safeguard them and we are committed to respond in accordance with Local Safeguarding Board procedures E-Mail: info@smrc.school
Website: www.smrc.school



Collection times

Year 1: 10 am

Year 2: 10:30am

Year 3: 11:00am

Year 4; 11:30am

Year 5: 12:00pm

If there is a sibling in school they will bring the book back to save you coming in. If you are picking up the books but your child will be returning at a later date then please make sure they bring them in when they return.

It is not only school work however that is the issue, many parents feel that contact with your teacher is something we need more of, to that end we plan on introducing a Zoom meeting for your child's class and their teacher. This will take place on a Friday afternoon; this means that the **school will be closed to children in the afternoon every Friday till the end of term, beginning on Friday 19th June. (this does not affect Nursery)** Teachers will remain in school not only to have their Zoom meeting but to catch up on any emails or calls with yourselves to sort out any problems you might be experiencing. It will also give us more time for deep cleaning for the following week.

Pick up time on Fridays: Please use the gates you would on the other days.

Reception: 1pm

Year 1: 1:15pm

Year 2 – 6: 1:30pm

Yet again this is new territory for us all and we have no guarantee how successful it will be, but coming to the end of the year without linking up more effectively would be a missed opportunity. And it is in response to genuine parental concerns. We have no idea what the Government plans for the summer and beyond. At the moment we have had no indication that schools will be asked to open as they have been till now but this may change. We cannot guarantee that normal schooling would be an option in September either but we are already drawing up contingency plans to ensure key year groups i.e. Year 6 and Reception would be given priority for full time places. We are also thinking about how we can use new places as learning spaces which may have to be considered. We pray that this will not be necessary but it is important we consider all possibilities.

I know the new procedures will suit some people more than others but we are trying our best to do what we can for all of our families.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Clephane, Headteacher