

St Mary's RC Primary School
'Growing, loving and learning in the arms of Mary'
Meadowside
Sunderland
SR2 7QN
Telephone 0191 5228787
Headteacher Mr M. Clephane



09/06/2020

Re-opening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key Worker's children.

Dear parents / carers,

It was brilliant to see children coming back to school this week; the new procedures are working really well and we have created an orderly learning environment here at St. Mary's. It is exciting and also challenging for everyone getting used to new surroundings and new classes and I hope everyone gets settled quickly and used to the new routines.

When we consulted parents before half term we had 100 confirmations of parents who wanted to send their children back, by the end of last week this had grown to 154 and is still growing. Yesterday 124 children returned to school making St. Mary's the school with the highest number of pupils returning in Sunderland. The school has had to constantly adapt and change things to meet this growing need. This surge of interest has put unprecedented pressure on school admin in terms of emails and calls which may mean you did not get a response when you wanted it. It is for this reason we are now requiring two weeks' notice so we have time to readjust groupings and procedures to maintain adequate safety requirements.

As a head teacher my priority is to always get as many children in school as we possibly can whilst safeguarding children and staff and that is what we have endeavoured to do. If you do request a place in future we will look at the bubble sizes to make sure we do not compromise our risk assessment before making the decision to give a place.

I remind you that under the present system once bubbles are in place children cannot be moved into another one. As a result many children will be adjusting to working with different classmates, classrooms and teachers.

Over the last eleven weeks I have been so proud of how our key workers' children have adapted to the new situation; working with new teachers and even making new friends from St. Joseph's and St. Leonard's primary schools with whom we shared a hub school. They will be adapting to

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



change again and I am sure they will do it with the same St. Mary's resilience and good cheer they have shown since lock down began.

The restructuring of every aspect of school life has been a daunting task and it is a massive relief to have achieved our reopening to so many children. We now have confirmation that full school reopening will not happen before September as distancing measures would be impossible to implement with a full cohort.

We rely on your support and understanding through these changing times so please keep us in your prayers as we go forward together.

I hope you are all safe and well,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Clephane', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Clephane, Headteacher