

12 May 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in this continued difficult time for many. As I said in our class newsletters on Friday, after any new government announcements I would keep you updated. On Sunday, the Prime Minister announced the new government plan for schools and further detail was provided yesterday. We heard that schools 'may open' to more pupils from the 1st of June and I am writing to inform you of our response to this announcement.

Until the 31st of May, nothing changes. The school remains open to the children of critical workers. Despite the return to work of many professions, the critical worker list remains unchanged. The critical worker list can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The Prime Minister stated that schools 'may open' from June the 1st for: children of critical workers; Nursery pupils; Reception pupils; Year 1 and Year 6. This is dependent on the 'R' rate and meeting the five tests that the government has set out. He went on to say that the rest of primary pupils 'may return' one month before the end of the summer term. This leaves parents with many questions and most importantly - how will my child be safe?

Department for Education guidance for parents was updated on Monday and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

As at the beginning of lock down, we will deal in facts. The potential opening of schools to more pupils is still three weeks away which gives us time to plan. First and foremost any plans we make will be based upon the safety and well being of your child, staff and families.

Our first action is to assess risk and plan for safety. We will be carrying out the following actions over the next week:

1. Identify areas of risk associated with the new guidelines
2. Reassess our current risk assessments and adapt
3. Identify levels of safety that can be achieved
4. Identify and put in place measures to address the risk
5. Plan a reopening which meets the risk assessment requirements

Once we have assessed risk and identified the measures we can put in place we will write to you informing you of what the school opening will look like. Safety will always be the leading factor in our decisions. We have three weeks to plan and we will provide updates and information in a timely manner, where possible.



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I would like to thank you for the ongoing trust that you have placed in us. I want to reassure you that any plans we make will be underpinned by the safety and wellbeing of your child.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we plan for this next phase. Your child's class teacher will phone in the next week to see if there is anything we can do to support you at this time and this is also a great opportunity for children to talk to their teacher if they wish!

Please continue to refer to the weekly class newsletters and the class pages on the home learning tab of our website as our main source of information and support as well as our social media sites on Facebook and Twitter.

We know how hard you are all working to support your children at home and if there is anything we can do to support you and your family at this time please do get in touch to let us know.

Best wishes

*Mrs Edwards*

Mrs Edwards  
Head of All Saints Marsh C of E Academy