



5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Review of Phased Opening**

As promised, we have spent this week looking in depth at all the evidence regarding the risks of COVID 19 and the phased openings of schools.

On Monday, our Board of Trustees and Trust senior leaders considered the Prime Minister's announcement, on the 28th May, alongside the Independent SAGE report and took the cautious decision to delay the opening of our school, to more pupils, in line with the scientific advice.

We reopened after half term for our key children and we know that some schools across England opened for more groups of children on Monday, some will open on the 8th of June and others may delay further. There is no right or wrong, but the Government is clear that the decision should be made solely on the needs and risk to the community in which it serves.

The PHE Dashboard of statistics, which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>, shows how low the risks are in our local area in comparison to the nation. Teignbridge, in which we lie as a school, shows the rates are 111.4 which is a lower risk in comparison to England which is, at present, 274.8. Although all of us would like to be able to return with no risk at all, we cannot escape the fact that a small risk will be around for some time.

The Independent SAGE report (28.5.2020) stated that transmission rates would halve between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> June from 4.21 to 2.09. The South West transmission rate yesterday stood at 0.13, Devon 0.10 and Torbay 0.16 so is already well below SAGE's mathematical modelling.

The importance to base decisions around local contexts is also confirmed in the independent SAGE report which states *"We believe that decisions on school opening should be guided by evidence that there are low levels of COVID-19 infections in the local community in which the school is situated and the ability to rapidly respond to new infections through a well-functioning, coordinated, local test, track and isolate strategy."* The Local Authority has assured us that this system is now in place locally.

With the rate of infection reduced we are now able to consider how we can open safely to further groups as advised by the government.

The wellbeing and safety of our staff, pupils and families is the most important consideration in any decision. Which is why we have used the evidence above to make the decision to start the transition next week to support a wider opening for the eligible year groups from the 15th of June.



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## TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

This is how we will do this:

**Monday 08.06.20** - Key Worker children only

**Tuesday 09.06.20** - Key Worker children only

**Wednesday 10.06.20** - Key Worker children, Year 6 and Year 1

**Thursday 11.06.20** - Key Worker children, Year 6 and Year 1 and Reception

**Friday 12.06.20** - Key Worker children, Year 6 and Year 1 and Reception

There will continue to be **no after school club and breakfast club provision at this time**. This will be constantly reviewed.

I will write to all eligible parents again at the beginning of next week with an information sheet on your child's bubble, which adult will lead their bubble, the timetable for staggered starts and collections and we will share video clips to help the children know what to expect.

I know there are some families who are wanting to return as swiftly as possible and others who have made a decision not to return to school at this time and we respect this and understand that every family circumstance is different.

We hope that you understand that this decision has not been taken lightly. We will not take any unnecessary risks where the safety of pupils, staff and their families are concerned and our school risk assessment supports this. We thank you for your continued understanding and support with this and we look forward to welcoming some of our children back soon.

For those of you with children who are not in the eligible year groups to return at this time we will continue to support you and are looking at further ways we can engage the children with learning at home. Thank you for all your endeavours to support home learning - we know it is hard!

May I wish you a safe and restful weekend and thank you for all your support and kind words to support our school community, they really do mean a lot.

Best wishes

*Mrs Edwards*

Mrs Edwards  
Head of All Saints Marsh C of E Academy