



# School Newsletter

With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

11.05.2020

Dear parents/ carers,

As part of his sketch of a roadmap for recovery, the Prime Minister announced last night, that it was the government's ambition for primary age pupils ( and he identified Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in particular) to return to school on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the very earliest, if conditions allow.

He further announced that there would be more detail in a document published today at 2pm. This document is entitled **OUR PLAN TO REBUILD: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy** and is available to view here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/884171/FINAL\\_6.6637\\_CO\\_HMG\\_C19\\_Recovery\\_FINAL\\_110520\\_v2\\_WEB\\_1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884171/FINAL_6.6637_CO_HMG_C19_Recovery_FINAL_110520_v2_WEB_1_.pdf)

I have read through the document and focused on those points which I believe affect St Mary's.

*Organisations should prepare accordingly for ...*

*A phased return for early years settings and schools. Schools should prepare to begin to open for more children from 1 June. The Government expects children to be able to return to early years settings, and for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller sizes, from this point. This aims to ensure that the youngest children, and those preparing for the transition to secondary school, have maximum time with their teachers. Secondary schools and further education colleges should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning. The Government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review. The Department of Education will engage closely with schools and early years providers to develop further detail and guidance on how schools should facilitate this.*

As part of this plan, the government, working with other agencies, is consulting on the best way to make workplaces less infectious and will consult on and release similar guidelines for schools.

At about the same time this document was released, schools also received an email from the Department for Education today informing them that it will publish further guidance setting out

more information for early years, schools and colleges later today. At time of writing that email has not arrived.

***In summary***

The main points from the document concerning school, as far as I understand, are that:

- if the conditions allow **from June 1, at the earliest: children are to be able to return to early years settings** (which I presume includes our **Nursery class** but I will confirm when I know for sure), and **children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller sizes.**
- **all primary school children** are to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible, which I presume means **Year 2, 3, 4 and 5** (this would be from, on or around **Monday 22 June** if feasible).
- the government, working with other agencies, is consulting on the best way to make school less infectious and will release guidelines.
- the DfE is publishing further guidance setting out more information for early years, schools and colleges later today.

I will let you know as soon as we receive further guidance from the Department for Education.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth

Headteacher