

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 16: 25.02.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are safe, well and that the half term was a bit of a break, at least from home learning! Some of you may have had a vaccine too or have family members who have received their first jab. It is wonderful that the vaccine roll out is proving such a success.

I am delighted that Boris Johnson confirmed earlier this week that schools will be reopening to all children from **MONDAY 8 MARCH**. This will give us three weeks and three days back in school before the Easter holiday. The government has made schools reopening the top priority in the easing of lockdown restrictions and this is good news for our school community. Families have been heroic in supporting home learning during the dark winter days.

I am optimistic about the children coming back. We will work to re-establish routines, get used to being with each other again and have a bit of fun! We will take advantage of better weather and use our outside spaces for learning when we can. We will pace things as we know that some children will be exhausted with a full day at school after weeks at home.

We will be running our school from Monday 8 March using everything we learned from September – December, with children in year group bubbles. We will try and keep individual classes separate to ensure the smallest number of children need to isolate if there is a positive case of coronavirus. The drop off gates will be the same as before Christmas with morning drop off time from 8.40 – 9.00. Staff will be around every morning to welcome you and point you in the right direction. We cannot, at this stage, have parents or carers coming into school, and we ask you to drop and go please to avoid too much mingling! The afternoon pick up times are 3.20 for Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5 and 3.10 for Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6. This is to avoid too much congestion at the school gates and, again, please move on quickly for obvious reasons.

We will be offering Plus Base, After School Club, to Years 1,2 and 3, as before Christmas, with a hope of offering it to every year group from the beginning of the Summer Term. After school activity clubs, known as Plus Clubs, will start again in the Summer Term.

We are updating our risk assessment for our school reopening and we will put it on our website next week once we have shared it with all our staff.

I will really look forward to seeing many more of you at the gates from the week after next. I think we may be finally moving to brighter days; it's been a long haul. Our school needs to be full of children and staff, working and playing together.

Best wishes,
Liz Burton