

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



South Street
Isleworth
Middlesex TW7 7EE
Tel: 020 8560 7166
Fax: 020 8232 8820
office@smi.hounslow.sch.uk
www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents

We write to update you during these strange and uncertain times where, as each week passes our hopes and wishes of a more 'normal' life is what no doubt helps us to deal with the unpredictability of this virus.

At this time of year, we would normally be preparing for all the fun activities that we have come to associate with the final half term of the school year; our summer fair, summer school trips, the Y6 journey to Rome, sports day, and especially our final farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children.

This is a difficult time for us all; children, parents, teachers, staff and our head teacher, as in all schools. These changes happened within a very short space of time, where each and every one of our lives was affected. We pray that the sense of solidarity remains strong with the understanding that this journey is one none of us could ever have expected and also one we were never fully prepared for.

The Prime Minister's address to the nation on the 10th May indicated that schools in England may be in a position to re-open from 1st June starting with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This would be based on meeting the 5 tests set out by the government and in line with the overall national plan. Since then there has been lots of different reports for and against

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

schools opening to more children on this date, and the debate continues even as we write this letter.

We just wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that as a school our top priority will always be the safety and wellbeing of our children, staff and parents. We have no doubt that the best place for all our children is at school, being taught by a dedicated team who want to give the very best of their knowledge to each and every child in their class. St Mary's is a place where children love to be, where the playgrounds are full of laughter and great friendships are built; we really can't wait to witness these moments again.

Since the Prime Minister's announcement we have been given guidance on what we as a school are expected to deliver (such as 15 children per bubble (class) and social distancing both in class and the playground, to name but two). This guidance is underpinning our planning to welcome more children back, as we speak, to see whether their expectations are both practical and realistic for St Mary's; our absolute priority is the safety and wellbeing of our children and everyone who enters or works at St Mary's. We are fully evaluating the government guidance and carrying out detailed, rigorous risk assessments at the school. This will help to ensure we are compliant with the Government's guidance and that we have all the necessary supplies and equipment to enable a safe and COVID19 aware environment.

Additionally, as many of you would have seen, there are ongoing discussions between the main teaching unions and the government, about the best way to open for more children schools and the date of opening. This may result in further updates to the guidance over the coming days. The government has committed to making a final decision on whether schools can definitely open for more children, and associated guidance, on 28th May. This situation means that we, at this moment, are unfortunately not in a position to give specific information to you, as parents, on our plans to open for more children.

Following the announcement Mr Marsh will provide an update. If the decision is to open for more children St Mary's is likely to open from Monday 8th June. Mr Marsh will provide detailed

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

information on the plans once they have been tested in the school during the week of the 1st of June.

We know that school is one of the most important experiences a child will ever have in their lifetime. We also understand that the re-opening of schools is absolutely key to moving forward from this pandemic, but we will only do so when we have the reassurance that what we are doing is the best for everyone concerned. Rest assured the decision on whether your child comes to school, if the school opens for more children, will be yours.

In the meantime, thank you for all your messages of support, they are always appreciated and we look forward to the day when our classrooms are filled once again with the chatter and noise we are so accustomed to and miss so dearly.

Best wishes, stay safe and well. Keep holding each other up in prayer.

Yours sincerely

Jim Park

Chair of Governors

F Marsh

Head Teacher

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.