

**Mrs M Martin**  
Head Teacher

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Monday 11th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all managing to keep well during the challenges of lock down.

You will no doubt be aware that the government has updated its advice on the Covid 19 pandemic and has stated an ambition for Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children to return to school. Some additional detail was released this evening by the DfE and we have taken that into account.

Some members of the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team met virtually to discuss how we as a school might look to deliver a safe return for pupils in line with government guidance. Our priority will always be the safety of the children and staff of St. John's and this will be our overarching principle around which any return will be structured.

The situation continues to be extremely fluid and is by nature organic so any plans will be subject to review and amendment in light of the effect of the easing of the lockdown and any new national guidance published. However, for now we thought it might help to share how we currently envisage the school being more open.

Children of key workers from all classes will continue to be welcomed into school where it is essential for their parents to work and no home supervision is possible.

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June we hope to also be able to welcome back all Year 6 children who will be taught in groups of around 10 across three different classrooms to allow the most practical social distancing possible.

Dependent on the prevailing advice and after assessment of how Year 6 have settled back in, we would hope to welcome back Year 1 children on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Each Year 1 class would be taught across three classrooms with teachers and TAs working between them to ensure best pedagogy for the pupils.

From Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, subject to a risk assessment of how well the school is delivering safe education we will look to also welcome back the reception children who will also be taught in groups of no more than 10.

We will be considering the best way to stagger the start and finish times of the school day in order to minimize congestion at the school gates and will advise on this in good time. The school time table itself may need to be adapted to ensure the safest combination of class movements around the school. For now, the intention is only for pupils of these year groups to return but not their siblings.

I am aware that the organic nature of these arrangements is not as helpful as total clarity and certainty but hope that sharing our initial plan may reassure you that we are keeping our plans constantly under review and will not compromise on the children's safety. We have had to make a careful call between getting the children back as soon as possible and doing all we can to ensure those children who attend are as safe as possible.

As soon as any information or guidance is received which may alter the above plan we will be in contact again to update you.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs M Martin  
Head Teacher



J R Phillipson  
Chair of Governors