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Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

School Update

I hope this update finds all of our children and their families well and in good spirits. As we find restrictions easing in the wider community, I hope it means families are able to enjoy a more varied and enjoyable time together.

At school, the children have continued to amaze staff, I really cannot commend the children enough for how well they have settled into school life and worked hard! It is clear that they have enjoyed being back, and appreciate the routine in their life.

Back to School September 2020

The Government have now confirmed that they expect all children to return to school in September. This, of course is brilliant news, staff are really excited and cannot wait to welcome your children back.

I am in the process of working with senior staff at St Mary's and in the wider trust, to plan for the safe return of the children in September. I will share this information with you before the end of this term. This will ensure that all possible safety measures are in place, to reassure both parents and children that they will be safe upon their return.

Our Bubbles of Children

A reminder that our bubbles of children are now full, and we cannot accept any new children. The only exception are those children who have parents / carers who are key workers, and children who have EHCPs.

If your child falls into this category and you need your child to attend school during the final week of the school year, you **must contact me today** to confirm which days you require care. This is important, as I need to ensure I have the correct staffing ratios for the number of children. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Federation with St Vincent's

You will remember that before the lockdown, it was announced that St Mary's and St Vincent's would be federating with each other from September 2020. Work towards this exciting development has taken place throughout the last few months.

Although on a daily basis the children will not see any change to their routine, they will benefit in many ways. An example of this, is that there will be a collaboration of staff between the two schools, meaning that each class teacher will have a partner in the federated school. This will enable joint planning opportunities and experiences for our children. Another advantage of a federation, is the opportunity to deploy staff across the 2 schools. I am delighted to say that we have already been able to do this!

Mrs Koobawara has been appointed to a teaching role at St Vincent's from September 2020. I am sure you join me in thanking her for all of her hard work at St Mary's, and wishing her the best of luck in her new job.

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I will write to you again before the end of this term with more details of the federation. Please do take the time to read the letter.

Class Dojo

A reminder that work and messages continue to be posted on Class Dojo. Even if your child is at school, please continue to check the platform for up to date information and messages from staff.

Do not forget if you have any questions regarding home schooling, or need a pack of work, please contact Mrs Waldram lwaldram@stmarysprimary.org.uk

School reading books and property

Thank you to those of you who have dropped books, and school equipment in the box which is situated outside the main school gate.

For the benefit of all of the children, it is vital that any school books etc that you have at home, are dropped off before the end of term. The box will be available to deposit books Monday – Friday of next week.

If these days are not suitable for you, please send me a message via Class Dojo and I will arrange a more convenient time with you.

PE Kits and Belongings

Over the summer holiday, our fantastic site staff will be deep cleaning the school site. To help them with this, I would like the school to be as clear as possible. I have noticed that we have a number of PE kits, bags, scooters that belong to our children still in school.

If you know that your child has belongings at school, can I please ask you to come into school between next Tuesday and Friday to collect them. You will need to come to the main school entrance, and speak to the school office staff, who will arrange the retrieving of your child's belongings for you. Please note, we are only allowing 1 adult into the reception area at a time, so please come to school on your own, or with your children, but not in groups with other families. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Social Distancing

Please be reminded that the expectation regarding social distancing for adults, including parents, remains at **2 metres**. Please set a good example to the children when dropping them off and picking them up. This is to protect all members of the school community. We have a number of parents who are key workers and we want to support them in staying safe too. Thank you for your support in this very important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chiswell
Headteacher