



**St Mary's Catholic First School**  
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**Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn**



15th May 2020

Dear Parents

As leader of this school my main priority has and will always be ensuring that our children and our staff team are safe. We have a strong relationship with all of you that is built on trust, I want to assure you that we are trying our very best to welcome our children safely back to St Mary's.

Since 23rd March we have continued to "open school" to support our key worker and vulnerable families whilst also providing home learning for all year groups.

Thank you as always for everything that you do to support our school, you have been amazing, many of you have juggled heavy workloads in order to keep your families safe and I fully appreciate that this will not have been easy and that you will have had great days alongside many challenging days.

Eight weeks ago, our school joined other schools nationally in closing our doors as part of the Government's Lockdown Strategy. We have now been asked to prepare to re-open our doors to our Preschool, Reception and Year 1 children on 1<sup>st</sup> June as part of the next stage in our government's strategy to overcome this virus. Although, please remember this date is not definite as the Government are continuing to monitor the situation.

The Government has asked that we prepare for reopening, part of these preparations includes carrying out a detailed risk assessment based on the documentation provided by the Department for Education. This details the numbers of children recommended in each class group on their return. As we're all familiar with the Government guidance to keep 2 metres apart for safety reasons our best endeavours will be to maintain this, however I, hand on heart cannot guarantee this with our youngest children in school. To try our best to ensure this happens we have carried out a risk assessment and this allows us to have ten children safely in a classroom at any one time alongside, minimising contact with others, good hygiene practice and regular cleaning of the school.

To continue with any further preparations, I need to ask you if you intend on sending your child in Preschool, Reception or Year 1 back to school.



The Government are encouraging you, as parents, to send your child(ren) back to school. However, parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Government advice for parents and carers can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Children in Years 2, 3 and 4 are not part of this first phased return plan and therefore must stay at home. Unfortunately, if your child has a sibling in another year group other than Reception or Year 1, he/she will NOT be able to attend school unless you are a key worker or if your child is part of a vulnerable group.

Please can you complete the form below and email back to [office@stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk)

I receive daily updates from the Department of Education and as soon as I receive any further information, I will share with you.

Thank you for your patience and continued support at this very challenging time.

Best wishes

*P. Fearn*

Mrs Paula Fearn  
**Head Teacher**

**Name of child** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class/Year** \_\_\_\_\_

Will be returning on 1st June      Yes /No

Will not be returning on 1st June      Yes/No