**To all our St Mary’s Families**

**July 2020**

**14 weeks of lockdown**

Since 1st June we have been running three schools : one for keyworker children, another for those who returned to school and another for those who are working from home.  
We have now completed four weeks of this latest provision and 14 weeks of lockdown.  
Again we say thank you to all parents. You really have stepped up again, adapting and supporting your children's learning and well being.  
  
Those not in school are focusing on completing set daily tasks.  The set tasks all focus on practicing the core learning that will allow us to re build and close any learning gaps more effectively when we return next academic year. Well done to every child who has been working on times tables, reading skills, handwriting and spelling. Every task you can complete from now until the end of term will add value.

**Recovering not Gap Closing**   
The children in school have returned happy and confident. We cannot ask for more. They have been able to quickly step back into a school day. They have delighted in being able to spend time with their friends and learning has been very effective.

Year six have been very positive and together with Mrs Bray and Mrs Gill are working creatively to adjust to a Covid 19 summer transition.  
Foundation and year one quickly adapted to the new structures and approaches.  
All staff and parents have worked to ensure that we can feel and be as safe as possible.  
All are firmly settled into a new routine.  
It has given us much confidence to see how our learning from the much smaller keyworker provision has extended well to three more classes.

Nationally there has been much talk of the need to close gaps in learning in September. It does suggest that there is an assumption that this will have only been a time when children will have lost pace in learning. In fact our children are working at home on the basics and more and at the same time many have learned other skills; cooking, bike riding, managing change positively, engaging constructively with IT, living alongside siblings and other family members in new ways…..we are extremely grateful to you and your children for your hard work at this time.

In September we will continue to build on all of your good work and on the work completed before lockdown to do whatever we can to support your child and allow them to continue to flourish.

**What do we know so far about any next steps?**  
We now know that Boris Johnson is determined that all children will return to school in September. We are hearing lots as a nation about the further steps out of lockdown from 4th July.   
Lots and lots of small steps that will open up our lives.

School leaders nationally have had no formal guidance on what school can and should look like in September but we are hopeful that this information will be shared soon.  
For now we are working on whatever we can to prepare. The learning since lockdown will likely continue to shape practice going forward.

**Reports a**re being written but there are some adaptions. We are using outcomes to Easter as the basis for the reports. Class groupings for September will be finalised in the next week and we will begin sharing this with you very soon.  
  
**Keyworker provision** will close at the end of term. School will be fully closed for repairs and deep cleaning as well as to give staff opportunities to return each class base to whatever form it will need to take for the autumn return.

**School in September**

From 1st June for those who could return to school it has been on the basis of parental choice. We have been delighted that so many parents have felt able to return their child but equally respect parental decisions not to return their child. For now the ‘Your child your choice’ policy has made sense. It is understood that in September all children will be required to return. If this raises concerns for you that we are not already aware of then please do contact school as soon as possible so that we can look at possible ways to support a successful return for all.

**Communication from end of term**

After so many weeks of having a continuous communication and support it already feels like a big step to stop being available from 22nd July until school return.  
It would be helpful to have feedback from parents on the possible communication you might value through the summer break. We could have a phone number for any emergencies and a system of checking the St Marys Facebook page. Please do share your thoughts.

**School nurse.**  
A reminder that despite Covid 19 we are being asked to ensure that we are  
accessing support for health related matters. Please find information attached about ways to contact the school nurse.

**Uniforms for next year**

Please find attached information with all the details of how to purchase any items you may need for your child.

**Pupil Premium**

If a parent is in receipt of Universal Credit they should register their child for pupil premium. This helps us as a school as we will receive an additional sum of money into the school. An additional benefit to parents in key stage two is that you will not need to pay for school lunches. If you think you may be eligible to apply for this fund please do so as it is of great benefit to the school.

Applications can be made on the Devon schools website. The link is below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/new-starter-pupil-premium>

The funds we receive for pupil premium are used to impact on those children registered as pupil premium. Our funding decisions are explained in our Pupil Premium Strategy which is on the school website. This makes it clear that we do not allocate funds to individual children but in order to promote their skills and to give all pupils access to every aspect of school life we do work closely with individual parents on ways to support their child, which may include funding that directly benefits that child.

<http://www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk/website/pupil_premium_strategy_2018_to_19_review_1_/391781>

**Contagious Love, hope and charity**



Throughout lockdown we have heard many examples of positive giving and thoughtfulness. Those who work daily in our hospitals and care homes have become national heroes; ordinary people who do extraordinary giving each every day.

Captain Tom is still a favourite of mine. It was the way that he inspired the nation to give that made me smile: his warmth, enthusiasm and commitment have continued to inspire so many.

**Community Counts.** This has been a long journey and it is not over yet. Hopefully you will have seen and experienced opportunities and positives throughout your journey.

Hopefully challenges have been few and you have felt supported through this time.

The staff at St Mary’s continue to be available for guidance and signposting not just in learning for your child but for many aspects of life at this time. Please do continue to talk to us if we can be of support.

**Any changes of details?**

If you have moved house or have changed your telephone number please may we ask you to always update the school via the school office. This will ensure we have the most up to date information for you. Additionally, if your child’s medical needs should change please let us know.

**Grace Year 1 Please support**



Grace has been waiting patiently throughout lockdown to have her hair cut for The Little Princess Trust. She has been waiting to have 11-13 inches of hair cut and has. now been given the date of Saturday 4th July.

Please consider making a donation. You will know from previous newsletters that The Little Princess Trust supports the journey of children being treated for cancer both by providing real hair wigs and by supporting research. We all wish this charity did not have to exist and supporting it takes us small steps closer to that one day being true.

Grace is in school this week. We will ensure that she is celebrated for her kindness but would be grateful if you could consider making a small donation to her below just giving page.

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Victoria-Herbert6](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Victoria-Herbert6)

We send our best wishes to all.  
From all at St Mary’s

Mrs Mannix

