



St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Miss S Robinson

2.3.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Return to School and Recovery Curriculum

As we approach the end of school closures, we are becoming increasingly excited about having all our children back on site on Monday 8th March! As such, I wanted to write to confirm arrangements for reopening.

Safety First

Whilst society is now on a journey out of lockdown, we must still be mindful of the measures required to keep everyone safe. Staggered start and finish times will remain in place, as they were before the closures. You can find these [here](#) on our website under September Re-opening Information>Back to School Book. Please note, as before siblings should not be dropped off and picked up at the same time if their classes are timetabled to start separately. We also ask all parents to wear face masks **at all times** whilst on school premises. A copy of our risk assessment can be found [here](#).

Recovery Curriculum – A Journey of Hope

As a Church of England school, our Christian values continue to underpin every decision that we make and our curriculum is no exception. When we reopen, children will access a ‘recovery’ curriculum during the period until Easter. This is to enable children to re-adjust to school life and to give them opportunity to share their experiences, worries and dreams for the future. Our curriculum is entitled ‘A Journey of Hope’. It will culminate in us creating a ‘Garden of Hope’ incorporating children’s art installations, and serve as a permanent reminder of the importance of having hope in dark times.

The focus subjects will be: English, RE, P4C, Art and Music, all chosen because they teach core skills, or because they provide a vehicle to overcome wellbeing concerns. Maths and PE will also continue throughout and follow our standard curriculum in order to provide continuity of skill development. The whole school will use the stimulus text ‘The Red Tree’ by Shaun Tan. This has been chosen because it reflects how our children may have been feeling throughout the pandemic and provides a stimulus to explore this with them. More details about each week can be found on the progression maps accompanying this letter.

Assessment

During this period, staff will undertake assessments with the children, including applied writes, tests and/or practical assessment-based activities, depending on their age. Following this, senior leaders will meet with every teacher to discuss their pupils’ attainment and progress and to set targets and trajectories for every child. As part of this assessment process, we will hold virtual **Parents’ Evenings** during w/c 8th March. These will work slightly differently to normal. Our aim is to give parents a platform to share how children fared with home learning during lockdown, including celebrations and any concerns. This will help to inform our pupil progress meetings, target setting and teachers’ future

planning. We will use the same platform as we did in the Autumn – more details about how to book your appointment can be found in the guide accompanying this letter.

School Meals

School meals will be provided as normal when school reopens. Following the renovation of our school kitchen last summer, from January, we brought all our catering in house. The new menus have been well received by children accessing school during the closures, and I can personally vouch for them too! Prices will remain the same, however each new menu ([see them here](#)) boasts much more variety including daily pasta dishes alongside meat, vegetarian, deli sandwiches and a salad bar. If you would like your child to have a school lunch, please top up your sQuid account and they can order each day.

Breakfast Club

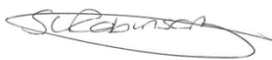
Breakfast Club will continue to run between 7.45am and 9.15am, in line with our current staggered start times. Places are limited due to social distancing measures so please pre-book via sQuid if you need a place.

Enrichment Clubs

After school clubs which were due to run this term will now begin after the Easter holidays. All bookings and payments that have been made will transfer over and we will be in touch with exact dates nearer the time.

Your children have always been, and remain, at the heart of everything we do at St Mary's. Above all, we will continue to offer them the love, care and support they deserve. If you have any questions about any arrangements for return, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school office.

Best Wishes



Miss Robinson
Headteacher



Mrs Pearson
Deputy Headteacher