



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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### **Letter to parents Friday June 5th 2020**

Dear Parents,

*I hope everyone is well and staying safe at home.*

**Return to School.** The process has now begun of trying to admit additional children back to school safely. I cannot emphasise enough the logistical challenges school has tried to overcome to open up as safely as we possibly can. The school has been taped off, rezoned, one way systems installed and thoroughly cleaned again. The staff have now all been assigned a team that they will stay in throughout the next few weeks at least, ensuring that where possible they don't mix with other groups and teams. New signs have been made, furniture moved and the playground equipment taped off. The list goes on!

I am indebted to all the staff for coming to terms with the new working arrangements, all of which is new to each of us. In particular can I thank Mrs Logue for masterminding this monumental task of restructuring the way school now has to operate. An enormous amount of thought and planning has gone into the way school is now organised and I am very grateful for all she has done in trying and keep the children and staff as safe as we possibly can.

**Year group returns.** Y6 will begin to return next Monday and they have all received a separate letter about how this is going to work. So far, eight children will be returning into Y6 and it will be good to catch up with them next week. The decision to send your child back or not is obviously a very difficult one, children need to be in school and I can speak for all the staff in saying how much we are missing the children. The dilemma however is one that none of us thought we would have to face and deal with. Is it safe to come back to school? The honest answer that I can give to that is that I don't know, I am not an epidemiologist and I don't know if your child will become poorly and take home an illness that they may spread to their family. Indeed the messages we receive centrally are very mixed and all school can do is its best to try to mitigate against those risks. As a result, school is not what it was before we "closed" at the end of March, it is a very different, the way we have to organise the classes with staggered start times, different days, small groups and social bubbles being just some examples.

School is now very different, but hopefully sooner rather than later we may be able to admit everyone back safely.



SCHOOL MEMBER



Bronze



**Reception and Y1 return.** A separate letter to this has been sent to the parents of children in Reception and Y1 about their phased return to school on week beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please do read it carefully and if you are planning to send your child back to school, **you MUST let school know. Please do not just turn up, as you will not be allowed into school.**

**Key Workers.** School continues to remain open for children of key workers. If you feel you may need to use school in this capacity you ***MUST LET SCHOOL KNOW*** before arriving. School needs to know in advance to ensure there is adequate staffing cover for the number of children concerned. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

**FSM Vouchers.** The government's FSM voucher scheme is now fully up and running, despite the mix up over half term (when policy was changed midweek) school seems to have been able to get the vouchers out to the relevant families' successfully. For this, I am indebted to both Mr Connaughton and Mrs Coney who have spent hours setting up the system and ordering the vouchers. Again, I cannot overestimate what a task this has been to get the support to those families that need it most. To both of them I extend my thanks for all they have done in getting the scheme operational.

**Reception 2020-2021.** All the places have now been allocated and school, I am delighted to say, is full once more going forward into the new academic year. I have written to all the new families about the induction process and the changes we have to make because of the current situation. I look forward to working with our new families in September and beyond.

**Nursery 2020-2021.** All Nursery places have now been taken. Due to the current situation, I have taken the decision to delay Nursery starting with us until the second half of the autumn term. I have written to all concerned about the implications of this, I will write further in September about how the induction process is going to work.

**School Cleaning Team.** I want to make mention of our cleaning team who have done such a splendid job in school. Since the end of March all of them have been in school each week doing their bit to keep school clean, many thanks to Di and her team.

**School Website.** Please keep checking the website as it is updated weekly with work for the children. Please also keep an eye on Twitter, which again is updated daily with some lovely ideas to do at home.

Finally as the last half term begins can I thank everyone at school from governors, staff, admin team, family worker, cleaners, cook and "Dave" our stand in caretaker. Their help and support to me has been invaluable in trying to steer a path through this crisis, and get help and support out to as many families as we can.

St Margaret Marys is very fortunate, and my thanks to all of them.

Take care and stay safe.

M Aldred Head teacher



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MEMBER



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