



ST MARY'S Catholic Primary School

Melbourn Road, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7DB Tel: (01763) 246021

After considerable planning and hard work by the staff, it is a great pleasure to reopen the school more widely to our children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

It is through the effort invested for a safe reopening, that the first two weeks of the current arrangements have operated so smoothly. However, that is not to underestimate the significant challenges that have had to be overcome. In order to ensure the safety and health of the children and staff, a great many new procedures and ways of working have had to be created and adopted.

For example, class sizes, or 'bubbles', are limited to no more than 15 children and government guidance encourages that as much time as possible is spent outdoors. Cleaning has to be done thoroughly and frequently throughout the day. These new ways of working critically affect the space we have available in the school and mean that all the teaching staff are needed to support these bubbles, not just those from the year groups who have returned. At the same time the staff are having to support the learning of those children still at home, essentially setting work and providing feedback in 'two schools' at the same time. The governors would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the huge efforts they have made and continue to make.

To put this effort and achievement into a wider context St Mary's has one of the highest number of children, and year groups, back in similarly sized schools in Hertfordshire and the highest number in the Academy Trust. The actual number fluctuates but is typically between 74-81 children. The next nearest Trust primary school has about 60 children but is a larger school than St Mary's.

We are also supporting our sister schools in the Trust by helping them develop their online learning platforms which are not as developed as ours. This is an important point. As you are probably aware the government announced last week that they now see no prospect of primary schools opening for all children this term. The governors recognise that this must be a great disappointment, and worry, for those of you who have children that are affected by this. The staff and governors truly understand this concern and will do everything practicable to reduce the impact on your children through provision and feedback across our online platforms Tapestry, Purple Mash and Seesaw.

As you will have observed the current environment is a fast changing one. So, we would like to reassure you that we are constantly monitoring government guidance changes and adapting as it develops to ensure we provide the best and safest provision for the children.

Finally, the governing body would like to thank you for supporting the school and your children in your unexpected calling to the teaching profession! We do not underestimate the challenge faced by many of you and would like to reiterate that if you have any problems then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

John Williams
Chair of Governors



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