



ST MARY'S Catholic Primary School

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

31st December 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Very Healthy New Year.

As you will be aware the Government made an announcement yesterday about the change of plans for reopening schools for the Spring term. Whilst this does not affect us at present (these changes will be reviewed on the 18th of January), school will reopen as planned on Monday 4th January for all year groups.

The Government's update comes as a result of learning that the new variant is more transmissible and early data suggests that the spread is high amongst children. Whilst there is no evidence to suggest that children become more ill with this variant, the transmissibility is something we must be mindful of. The safety of everyone in our school community is our priority and we hope that we can continue to offer face to face education for all during these exceptionally challenging times.

The guidance does not suggest that we need to alter our risk assessments or make any changes to our existing arrangements (staggered drop off and collection times to avoid crowds and unnecessary gatherings will remain the same, adults need to continue to wear face coverings at these times too). However, we must all remind ourselves of the basic messages for children, hand and respiratory hygiene and remaining in bubbles, this is particularly important when waiting to come into school, please ensure your children stay with you in the line. We will be continuing to reinforce this message at school.

Please ensure that your child only brings with them their packed lunch box and water bottle. Last term bags to carry these were allowed, it will no longer be permitted to bring a bag in this term.

Please also only use our Breakfast and Afterschool club if you have to work or attend a medical appointment. Places **MUST** be booked in advance to ensure that we have appropriate staffing available for each bubble.

The early collection on Friday afternoon will continue this term.

As always, your continued support and co-operation is really appreciated.

God bless,

Mrs Julia Pearce

