



ST MARY'S Catholic Primary School

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

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we reopen under new lockdown restrictions.

We all know there was little notice given of this change and we are living in very concerning times. Many are feeling anxious, so we need to pause and take time to reflect and establish control and understanding of our own personal situation.

The Government are yet to publish full guidance for the current school opening. We are working through combinations of that already available.

In our updated risk assessments, I have decided to limit bubble sizes to 15 as there is no guidance on bubble sizes. This enables the safest social distancing in class. At a time when infection rates and transmissibility are extremely high and concerning, restricting bubble sizes and not mixing is essential. We have been overwhelmed by the replies from key worker parents and are at our maximum capacity for safe staffing and keeping children adequately socially distanced within the school.

The numbers of pupils requiring school places is higher than anticipated. I have had to close the bubbles and now create a waiting list.

If you have contacted us to ask for a bubble place as a key worker, as set out in the DfE guidance, please can you email us evidence of your key worker status, such as a photo of your work ID badge or pay slip, if you haven't already done so.

I strongly urge you to consider school as a last resort for care where there are no other options available to you.





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Can I remind you of the government guidance on sending pupils into school in this circumstance:

- Many parents working in key sectors may be able to ensure their child is **kept at home**.
- Every child who **can be safely cared for at home should be**.
- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be and school should only be open for those who "absolutely need to attend."

The reason for not attending school where possible is that by fewer children making the journey to school, and fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread in our community.

If you have told us the days you need us to care for your children, we will be expecting them on these days every week. There is no flexibility in the days you can send your children as we are already at maximum capacity. If your child does not attend on a day we are expecting them, it is a safeguarding requirement that we contact you. Please continue to report absence in the normal way. If you are choosing not to use your place over a period of time, this place will be given to someone on the waiting list.

If you have changed your mind and no longer require your space, please let us know. If you have changed your mind and now require a place, please email us on the admin account and we will add you to the waiting list.

Everyone is adapting to the latest changes and we understand that these circumstances are extremely challenging for all but we must remind ourselves of the stark reality of the reasons for this national lockdown.

God Bless

Mrs Julia Pearce

