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# St Modwen's Catholic Primary School –Briefing Parents/carers –Plans for returning to school

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/carers

You will have heard about the Government's proposals to get children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back into school as soon as possible after June 1st. This letter explains how we plan to do that at St. Modwen's Catholic Primary School. I apologise that this will be quite a long letter, but there are lots of details to let you know about. School will be sending out separate more detailed letters for classes returning to school over the coming weeks. Before we explain some of the details of our planned phased return, we need to remind parents about what school expects of parents/carers should your child display symptoms of covid-19.

## What to do if your child is displaying covid-19 symptoms

Please do not send your child/children to school if they are displaying any symptoms of the virus. (A high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of sense of smell or taste.) Please refer to NHS information for further guidelines. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

If possible, please check your child's temperature prior to coming to school. Staff will be checking children's temperatures, using a non-contact thermometer, on entry to school and at various points throughout the day.

## What to do if your child displays covid-19 symptoms at home:

- Please inform the school office via telephone or e-mail immediately as school will enact the following control measures for self-isolation of the other members of the 'Bubble Group' your child has been placed in, as part of supporting the Governments track and trace programme.
- You will be required to immediately book a covid-19 test for your child and family members living in the same household and advise the school on the outcome of that test. Whilst waiting for your child's test results to come back you must self-isolate in accordance with current Government guidance i.e. 7 days for the person displaying the symptoms and 14 days for all other people in the same household.
- You need to advise school immediately on the outcome of your child's covid-19 test results.
  - If your child's covid-19 test results come back negative school can recall your child, their Bubble Group peers and staff to return to school

- If your child's covid-19 test results come back positive school can further advise yourself and members of your child's 'Bubble Group' with regards to self-isolation, testing, tracking and tracing.

#### **What school will do if your child displays covid-19 symptoms at school:**

- School will immediately self-isolate your child in our designated isolation room and as their parent/carer you will be called to collect your child from school immediately
- Your child will not be allowed to return to school until we have been informed your child has received a 'negative' covid-19 test result.

#### **What school will do if a child in your child's 'Bubble Group' displays or reports displaying covid-19 symptoms:**

- School will contact the parents/carers of all other children within that 'Bubble Group' to collect their children from school immediately and that they need to follow the current Government Guidelines on self-isolation. Please note any siblings in other classes within school will also need to be collected.
- School recommends parents/carers also book a covid-19 test for their child and family members living in the same household and to advise the school on the outcome of that test.

School respectfully requests parents/carers to reinforce with your child(ren) the importance of not game playing or pretending to display covid-19 symptoms. If your child(ren) are found to be doing this, school will deal with the incident under its Behaviour Policy as it will be deemed as causing significant stress on other pupils and staff mental health and well-being.

#### **When does school open for Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children**

You will be aware that the week beginning Monday 1st June we should have been returning to school after the half term. However, we now plan to have Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for a staff Inset Day to make our final preparations in line with the guidance set out by the government; therefore, we will begin to welcome children back into school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. **Please be aware on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June school will be closed for all children, this includes Keyworker and vulnerable children.** We will begin our phased return with:

- Year 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- followed by Year 1 on the 8<sup>th</sup> June and
- then Reception on 15<sup>th</sup> June (all these dates are subject to review).
- **School will close to all children at 1.00pm on Friday afternoon;** This is to allow time for a weekly deep clean and to give the staff time to set and respond to work online. Please note this includes Key Worker and vulnerable children.

**Please note that the above return dates may be subject to change dependant on Government, Staffordshire County Council Guidance or should school determine it needs to introduce further control measures to keep your child/ren and staff safe and well.**

## KEY FACTS TO BE AWARE OF FOR CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Here are some of the key facts that you will need to know before we can re-open the school to any of the children:

### **What a school day will look and feel like for your child**

**'Bubble Groups'** - On return to school, all children will be organised into 'Bubble'. These are groups of up to 15 children, depending on the size of the classroom they will be taught in. Each bubble will have a dedicated 'Bubble Team' led by a Class Teacher. While children will be in a bubble with children from their own year groups, there is no guarantee that they will be with their friends nor members of their own class. Children will only be able to mix with children in their own bubble and will eat packed lunches in their classrooms (please reference attached Provision of School Meals/snacks for Summer Term 2020.)

All groups of children will have allocated toilets to use. There will be regular cleaning of toilets throughout the school day.

**No Breakfast or After School Clubs:** Between now and the Summer holiday there will be no Breakfast Club and no After School Club provision. This is because we must keep children isolated from each other within their groups and this would not be possible in before or after school care.

The above control measures will support us to create a protective 'Bubble' around your child by limiting and controlling the contacts your child has whilst in school and maintaining social distancing. We will make sure that, as far as possible, children will be expected to socially distance in and outside of the classroom during their school day. We will have a 'no contact' policy for both children and staff (though we will have to be sensible about this if a child is hurt or upset). However, I must be honest with all parents at this point. I cannot guarantee that 'social distancing' as we have come to know it will be achieved in school. Even with smaller groups this is not always possible, and our youngest children will not find it difficult to understand the need to keep 2m apart from each other or their teachers.

**Wearing school uniform** will be optional for all children on returning to school. The virus can be carried on soft fabrics so children should come to school in freshly laundered clothes each day, as it may not always be practical to wash their uniform every night. Children should wear clothes that are comfortable and practical for working indoors and outside – they will not be changing for PE so jogging bottoms and sweatshirts (shorts and t-shirts for warmer weather) and trainers would be ideal. Sensible, practical clothing only, no heels or wheelie shoes allowed.

**Infection control and handwashing:** There will be supervised handwashing for the children throughout the school day. If parents wish, children may wear masks and/or gloves on the way to and from school. The current Government advice for both staff and children in school is that wearing masks or gloves is not recommended. Children fiddle with masks and this means putting their hands around their faces far more – making it potentially more dangerous.

We will also be asking parents to support these messages at home, by reminding the children and supervising them to wash their hands properly and regularly.

## Parental choice on sending their child back to school

Parents will have the right to decide whether they think it is safe and appropriate to send their children back into school when we open for each year group. Any parent who does not send their child back to school before the Summer holiday will not be fined.

## Pick up and Drop off arrangements for children

### Information for all children/parents entering school premises:

A strict one-way system will be in operation, (a map outlining this will be sent out later this week). All parents collecting children are only permitted to enter the school grounds via the entrance leading to the school car park.

For anyone using public transport to get to or from school – please read the Government advice at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-forpassengers>

Parents **will not** be able to have the same casual ‘drop in’ conversations with staff at the end of the school day. The office will be closed to parents, except by phone and email. If you need to speak to a member of staff, it must be done by telephone, email or via Class Dojo.

**Only one adult per child will be allowed onto school premises to drop and collect.** This includes parents of children in Reception – we know that some children will be unsettled and could be upset when they return, but unfortunately parents cannot come into class to help ‘settle’ them – as they will come into contact with other children.

Every Year group will have its own drop off and collection point (please reference table on page 4). Parents will be expected to keep a strict 2m social distancing when dropping off and collecting. We will also be asking parents not to meet and socialise by the school gates because this will increase the risk of children coming into contact with children from other groups. If parents have siblings in school within different returning year groups, parents will be able to collect both siblings at the earliest collection time of their children’s classes i.e. if one siblings class is dismissed at 3.15pm and the other siblings is 3.30pm, parents will be able to collect both siblings at 3.15pm.

### Year 6, Year 1 and Reception

Year Group	Return to school date	Drop off point/entry to school	Drop off time	Pick-up Time
<b>6</b>	2.6.2020	Gate by Parents Car Park	8.40 -9.00am	3.15 -3.25pm
<b>Year 1</b>	8.6.2020		More details to follow	
<b>Reception</b>	15.6.2020		More details to follow	

## Key Worker/Vulnerable Group children

Year Group	Return to school date	Drop off point/entry to school	Drop off time	Pick-up Time
<b>Key Worker/Vulnerable Group children.</b>	In school as usual with exception of 1.6.2020 which is an inset day with no children in school	Breakfast Club entry/Hall front door. Please press outside buzzer. Please park on Tutbury Road/visitors carpark, but not in the disabled bays/kerbs on entry exit to school or school service bay please	8.30 – 8.45am	3.30pm
			<b>Please note Key Worker/Vulnerable children will now be required to arrive and depart at the drop-off and pick-up times stated</b>	

### **Summer Term 2020 Parking/drop-off and pick-up information for parents:**

#### **1. Y6, Y1 and Reception children:**

- On entry to parents car park, please safely either drop your child off at the designated drop areas or park your vehicle and cross your child to the pedestrian walkway, observing the social distancing road markings.
- Year 6 parents are requested to remain in their vehicles until their child has entered the school gates, following a temperature check.
- Please note no adults will be allowed to enter school past the gate.

**School will provide more detail to parents/carers relating to drop-off and pick-up arrangements in Year Group specific letters due to be sent out later this week.**

#### **2. Key Worker/Vulnerable children:**

- **On arrival at school please park:**
  - on the road, avoiding the bus stop, or
  - on the visitors carpark, avoiding the disabled bay
  - **Please do not park your car**
    - on the kerb sides of the road leading to the parents carpark
    - blocking the service bay barriers
- Your child's temperature will be checked by a member of your child's 'Bubble staff Group'. If your child's temperature is normal, they will then proceed into school if your child is displaying a high temperature you will be asked to take your child home. At which point school will implement its control measures for self-isolation of the 'Bubble Group' your child is part of.

- Your child will then be escorted to their designated classroom by a member of their 'Bubble Team'

It is important that we operate a swift dropping-off and collection of children from school and it is therefore important that parents adhere to the control measures for entering the school site so we can keep children, staff and yourselves safe.

**School will continue to review these arrangements and if will amend/implement additional control measures if required to maintain the safety of our children/staff and yourselves as parents.**

### **What can my child bring into school each day**

- No school bags
- No mid-morning snacks or lunchboxes are to be brought into school. School will provide all your child's meals/snacks and water throughout the day free of charge to all returning children. Please see attached Parental Briefing on the Provision of School Meals/snacks for Summer Term 2020.
- No toys, transitional objects, pencil cases, books or personal items to be brought into school. School will provide your child with the necessary equipment and stationery they will need which will be disinfected daily and used solely for the use of your child.
- No Water Bottles: School will provide your child with disposable bottles of water throughout the day to ensure they stay hydrated.
- No PE kits

### **Using school Dojo**

All staff will be returning to help teach these smaller groups. Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to have work set online using Class Dojo. Where possible we ask parents to upload children's work as often as possible. Please be aware staff will still be available by email, it may take a little longer for them to respond.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 whose parents decide not to send them back to school will have work set online, however, this will be now set weekly as the teachers will be teaching full time during the day.

### **If your child requires prescribed medication during the school day**

Before bringing your child/children to school please ensure that we have up to date contact details and ensure any necessary medicine is brought into school by your child and given to the teacher in charge immediately. Please place your child's medicine in a clear plastic bag labelled with your child's name. Please note it your responsibility as a parent to ensure school has medication on site to treat your child. If your child attends school without their medication, school will contact you as their parent requiring you to either bring their medication into school or to collect your child immediately.

**Please be aware that by choosing to send your child/children to school, you accept and agree to adhere to the guidelines set out in this letter.**

Finally, we appreciate your continued support during these challenging times and school thanks you all in advance for your support in implementing these control measures. We appreciate and understand that some parents will find these arrangements difficult, but please do remember that every decision we are making is based on trying to keep all of the children in school, and the staff who work with them, as safe as possible.

With best wishes to all our school community – keep safe, keep well.

God bless,

Headteacher