



Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your family are well, and coping in these challenging and unprecedented times.

Our school has been open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children since the lockdown began on 23rd March, and staff have been supporting the home learning of children who have not been in school. We are very grateful to you for the support that you have provided for your child/children over this difficult period.

Following the government's announcement of its intention to begin the phased opening of schools from 1st June 2020, Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust has taken the following decisions about the opening of its schools.

Plymouth CAST will only consider the opening of its schools once invited to do so by the government on or after the 1st June, 2020, and once the government's 5 tests for moving to the next phase have been satisfied. Furthermore, each of our schools is required to complete a comprehensive risk assessment and planning process that will be approved by the Headteacher, Trust Education and Standards Manager, and Trust Director of Education before it is authorised to open.

The Trust will continue to work with our school leaders, staff, professional associations, local authorities, the Regional Schools Commissioner and government to ensure that the re-opening of our schools takes place at the right time and in the right way for the health, welfare and safety of our children, students and staff.

After careful consideration and extensive discussion, the Trust has directed its schools to begin its phased opening in the following way:

- In-school care provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable children from all year groups will continue.
- Any model of opening must include Year Six
- Where it is safe to do so provision must include Nursery, Reception and Year 1, or any safe combination of these year groups.
- No year group other than those specified by the government, N, R, Y1 and Y6 is able to return to school at this stage.

It is important to note that the Trust's directive and the local planning decisions of the school may change due to guidance from the government, the local authority, Public Health England, and other appropriate agencies. The government's date of 1st June for the phased re-opening of schools is only provisional and subject to the nature of the pandemic and national control measures as we approach that date.

Arrangements for St Johns

Children from Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 are invited to return. If your child is in one of these year groups and you would like them to return on the 1st of June then please can you let know school by the end of the day tomorrow either by telephoning or emailing the admin address. Some of you have already let your class teacher know. Several parents have already told us that they are unsure and will let us know nearer to June 1st. If you can inform us as soon as you have made your decision, then that will really help us to plan for the children's return.

To keep everyone as safe as possible, we will put a staggered start to the school day. This is to keep adults safe and to have less people entering the school site at any one time.

We ask that you leave the school premises once your child is dropped off and not to stay and chat with other parents. Please can we remind you to keep 2M apart from other families at all times. All groups will be up to 15 children and we will use several rooms for each group of children to encourage social distancing. Each group will have a different playground to play in. We are very fortunate to have so much outdoor space which we are planning to use to the full as it is safer for everyone to be outside.

Foundation children - Bubble 1- will start at 8.45am and finish at 2.45pm

Year One children - Bubble 2 - will start at 9.15am and finish at 3pm

Year Six children - Bubble 3- will start at 9am and finish at 3.15pm

Children of Key workers and Vulnerable pupils will continue to attend for childcare. If you are eligible for this and would like to take it up then please can you let the Admin office know what days you would need. If you have a child in more than one Bubble then we will agree a time with you for dropping and picking up.

Adults are not permitted to enter the school building. If you need to come into the admin office, then you will need to telephone first and arrange an appointment. Similarly, if you need to speak with a teacher then please contact the school office and we will arrange a telephone appointment. Class One children will enter the classroom through the normal route. An adult will be waiting at the Rainbow gates to greet them. Children from class three can enter the classroom directly via the small playground.

When you are waiting for your child at the end of the school day then please can you maintain the 2m distance apart.

Children will be expected to be in uniform when they return. If there are any difficulties with this, then please do not worry. We understand the financial pressures that families will be under at this difficult time. Please talk to us if you are struggling with uniform.

We request that book bags are not brought into school. We would ask that children do not bring toys in from home. Water fountains will not be in use. Please can all children bring in their own water bottles. It will not be possible for staff to administer sun creams.

Please can sun creams that last the school day be applied at home before the child comes into school.

Children will be arranged into Bubbles. Bubbles will not be allowed to mix. Staffing in Bubbles will remain the same for the week.

Bubble 1 - Foundation children - Mrs McClounnan and Mrs Lang. The Sports Coach will work with this group on a Friday. Mrs Jackson will work with this group on a Friday as well.

Bubble 2 - Mrs Waiters and Mrs Cusack- Year 1 children and Key worker children from KS1

Bubble 3 - Mrs Brown and Mrs Rowden - Year 6 and Key worker children from KS2

Online learning will continue for all groups of pupils who are not in school. The teaching staff are all now teaching groups of pupils full time so there will be less time for them to plan this. For this reason, the learning will be kept really simple. Teachers will no longer have the time to phone all pupils/families not in school. If you have any concerns then please phone the school office and make an appointment for the relevant teacher to phone you back. We would still like to support you and your families.

Attached is a school dinner menu. Children will eat dinners in their Bubbles. Please can any dinner money be brought in an envelope into their classrooms and clearly marked with their names.

We are not in school over the half term break and return on 1st June. We will do our best to pick up any emails over the holiday period.

We are very grateful to you for your support and understanding as we try to manage this situation in the best interests of our children, families, staff and the national COVID-19 recovery plan.

Yours sincerely,



Raymond Friel
CEO, Plymouth CAST



Liz Hamilton
Head teacher