



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Perry Common Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 7AB

Head Teacher: Mr M. Aldred  
Chair of Governors: Fr. Simon Ellis  
Parish Priest: Fr. Simon Ellis

Tel: 0121 464 6355 Fax: 0121 464 8558  
E-mail: [enquiry@stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk)  
Twitter: @StMargMaryRC

### Letter to parents Friday June 12th 2020

Dear Parents,

*I hope everyone is well and staying safe at home.*

**Return to School.** Disappointingly things have changed once again, the plans school had in place are now somewhat compromised because of decisions being taken outside of our control. This situation is highly unsatisfactory as all of us want the same thing i.e. all the children to return to school in the safest possible manner. Unfortunately, both schools and families have received somewhat mixed messaging about how and when this was to be done; messaging that has changed again this week. The current situation means that we will continue admitting Y6, Reception and Y1 back into school in the way we have planned and keep other year groups under review dependent on advice from the government.

The governors and I will now have to start and make plans for a “full return” in September, what that will look like nobody seems sure. From my point of view as the Head teacher, all I seek is clarity. A clear plan about how September will look and time given to school to prepare what we need to do to be ready. ***The children need to be back in school and school needs the children back, the sooner this happens the better.***

**September 2020.** Nursery admission will be delayed in September and I have written to those concerned. Assuming the remainder of the children are back in the autumn a number of classes and children will need some support having missed so much school. This is part of the rationale behind delaying our Nursery returning, as the staff normally deployed there will be on hand to support elsewhere as school returns. Meetings are due to take place shortly about how this will affect the new Reception coming into school. The new Y1 (current Reception) will have missed a significant amount of their first year in school and will need support on their return in September, this may involve a very slight delay in Reception starting, by only say a couple of weeks perhaps to enable us to settle the new Y1 into school properly. I will write to those concerned when I know more.

I also wanted to write about plans Re “catching up” in September. The first half term will be spent looking at work that would have been covered this summer term. Each year group will try to fill in the gaps as best they can whilst starting their new year’s work after the October half



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term. Whilst far from ideal it is the best way for school to try and identify those gaps and use the first half term to fill them. Mrs Logue will write to you all with more details about this nearer the time. It is very difficult to plan properly at the moment as it is very difficult to know what the situation will be next week never mind September. The governors and I are meeting on Wednesday to start to look at some ideas going forward. I will write more after our meeting.

**Y6 return.** Some of our oldest children returned to school this week, it was lovely to see them, whilst only a small group it was nice to see some children back in the red uniform and working in their classrooms. The deadline has passed now for the existing “bubble” that school has set up; this will be reviewed on Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, if any Y6 children want to join us after this date please let school know.

**Reception and Y1 return.** The deadline has now passed for Reception and Y1 to notify school if they intend to return on Monday. Many thanks to those that have let us know, this “bubble” will be reviewed on June 29<sup>th</sup>. If any Reception or Y1 families want to join school from then please let the office know. I look forward to welcoming some of our younger children back to school on Monday.

**Key Workers.** School continues to remain open for children of key workers. If you feel you may need to use school in this capacity you ***MUST LET SCHOOL KNOW*** before arriving. School needs to know in advance to ensure there is adequate staffing cover for the number of children concerned. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

**Reception 2020-2021.** A reminder that all the places have now been allocated and school, I am delighted to say, is full once more going forward into the new academic year. I have written to all the new families about the induction process and the changes we have to make because of the current situation. I look forward to working with our new families in September and beyond.

**Nursery 2020-2021.** A reminder that all Nursery places have now been taken. Due to the current situation, I have taken the decision to delay Nursery starting with us until the second half of the autumn term. I have written to all concerned about the implications of this, I will write further in September about how the induction process is going to work.

**School Website.** Please keep checking the website as it is updated weekly with work for the children. Please also keep an eye on Twitter, which again is updated daily with some lovely ideas to do at home.

**St Margaret Marys Church.** From next week, churches will be open for individual prayer. Father Simon is working hard to try to prepare the church to reopen. Whilst not reopening in the way it was, this is a significant step in the right direction. If anyone wants more information or can offer some help to Father in his preparations, please call 0121 373 0069.

Many thanks for your understanding and patience with these matters.

Take care and stay safe.

M Aldred Head teacher



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