



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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### Letter to parents Friday June 19th 2020

Dear Parents,

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

**Return to School.** I met with governors on Wednesday to explore a number of pressing issues. We discussed different ideas of trying to get more children back to school before the summer holidays safely. The logistics behind this are challenging however, it is something we are working hard to achieve. I am hopeful that everyone will be able to come back to school, even if only for part of a day, before September. I think it is important for those other year groups that at the very least, they have a face-to-face session with their teacher and maybe collect their end of year report. Discussions are ongoing about how all this is going to work and I will write next week with a proposal to put to everyone.

**September 2020.** As of today, I am planning for everyone to be returning to school in September. Unless I am told otherwise!

To help us manage this process Nursery will delay their return until the end of October and Reception will come back to school a couple of weeks after everyone else. ***My aim is for Y1 to Y6 to return on Wednesday September 2nd.*** This is earlier than originally planned and a change to the academic term dates we had originally agreed. My idea is to get most of the children back to school as early as we can, as it may take us a little longer to settle the children back into school routines etc. School could then look at Reception starting on **September 14<sup>th</sup>** with everyone bar Nursery in school by the end of that week. I will send out a revised academic year table to everyone next week, the remainder of the year remains the same only the earlier start to term in September has changed. The governors and I thought that the best thing in September was to get the children back to school as early as we can, so that as best we can, we can try to get back to some kind of normal schooling.

School currently has a number of unused Teacher Days; these days are going to be used towards the end of this term to help school put everything back in place for September. It will mean those year groups that have returned finishing on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The provision for key worker children however will carry on up to Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>, once again I will write more next week with details for the year groups concerned.



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**Y6 return.** Thank you Mr Barton and Ms McCarron for overseeing the return of our oldest children. The numbers have slightly increased as we move into our second fortnight of being back. A reminder that if you want to send your child back to Y6 you **MUST LET SCHOOL KNOW** so we can prepare the classrooms and set the work in line with the guidelines we've been issued with. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

**Reception and Y1 return.** Some of our younger children started to come back also this week. Many thanks to Mrs Jones, Ms Parkes, Ms Rathbone, Ms Winchurch and Ms Monaghan for welcoming back Reception and Y1. It truly was delightful to see them back in school, again if you want to send your child back to school in Reception or Y1 **YOU MUST CONTACT SCHOOL BEFOREHAND** and we can advise you how the process is managed. Thanks to all concerned.

**FSM Vouchers.** The government has now decided that children entitled to free school meals will receive vouchers throughout the summer holidays. My initial understanding of how this is going to work is that families will be issued with one voucher to last the six weeks near the end of this term. Again, I understand that Edenred will be the company overseeing the distribution of the vouchers. As soon as arrangements are finalised I will let those concerned know.

**Key Workers.** *Our key worker group is now growing as more people are returning to work. Can I please ask that if you feel you may need to use school for key worker provision that you contact the office beforehand.*

**First Holy Communion/Confirmation.** Plans for the year ahead and the year we have "missed" are dependent on when churches can open for larger groups. As and when Father Simon and I know more we will write to Y3 (current Y2) and y4 (current Y3) respectively.

**Reception 2020-2021.** Please can new and existing families contact school if you haven't already done so and make a telephone appointment to speak with Ms Rathbone. This initial part of the induction process can only be done over the telephone so please do make your appointment. I look forward to working with our new families in September and beyond.

**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.

**Please Pray for:** Our parish and school as we slowly start to reopen.

Many thanks for your understanding and patience with these matters.  
Happy Father's day to dads everywhere.

Take care and stay safe.

M Aldred Head teacher



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