

St Swithun's C of E Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher
Mrs Helen Thomas
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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have enjoyed the Half Term with your children. Following the Government's confirmation this afternoon that the criteria for the safe re-opening of schools have been met, I am pleased to be able to share more detailed information about our strategy for Phase 1 of our return to school.

From Monday 1st June full-time provision will be offered at St Swithun's for key worker and vulnerable children, including those new key worker children (please see website for application form).

Having thought deeply about our options, we believe that it is right to give priority to the children which have been identified by the Government as being most vulnerable to the impact of prolonged school closure. These are our youngest children and therefore we will be re-integrating our Nursery and Reception children from the **week beginning 8th June**, followed by **Year 1 in the week beginning 15th June**; then **Year 6 in the week beginning 22nd June**.

The safety and emotional wellbeing of our children always comes first and for this reason our phased return will be initially part time, with staggered start and finish times. This will allow us to monitor the new safety measures and to enable our teachers to give the children the time and attention that they will need in order to regain their confidence.

Whilst we will be reviewing the situation on a weekly basis, our plan for return is as follows:

Week commencing Mon 1st June:

- **Mon – Fri 0845-1515:** School open to Key Worker children and vulnerable

Week commencing Mon 8th June:

- **Mon – Fri 0845-1515:** School open to Key worker children
- **Mon, Tues 0930-1130:** School open to **FS2 Butterflies**
- **Thurs, Fri 0930-1130:** School open to **FS1 Caterpillars**

Week commencing Mon 15th June

- **Mon – Fri 0845-1515:** school open to Key Worker children
- **Mon, Tues 0930-1330:** School open to **FS2 Butterflies**
- **Thurs, Fri 0930-1130:** School open to **FS1 Caterpillars**
- **Thurs, Fri 0915-1430:** School open to **Y1**

Week commencing Mon 22nd June:

- **Mon – Fri 0845-1515:** school open to Key Worker children
- **Mon, Tues 0930-1445:** School open to **FS2 Butterflies**
- **Thurs, Fri 0930-1130:** School open to **FS1 Caterpillars**
- **Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 0915-1430:** School open to **Y1**
- **Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 0930-1500:** School open to **Y6**

We have started with staggered drop-off and collection times to enable us to implement social distancing around the school building. We will be respectfully asking that only one parent/carer accompanies your child/ren and that you wait to enter the school yard keeping a 2 metre distance apart.

Once the children return to school, they will remain with the same group or 'Bubble' and the same members of staff within their designated school zone. They will not cross over from one group to another and the key worker children will stay in their 'Bubble' rather than with their year group as this will minimise the number of people that each child shares the same space with. It also mitigates against potential transfer of infection and will give children the reassuring security of the familiar.

Break times will be staggered and the 'Bubble' groups will have their lunch brought to the classroom so that they can eat together either inside, or hopefully outside on the yard or in the garden area. The classrooms will be well ventilated and each child will have their own work station with clean personal equipment provided by school.

In order to follow guidance on hygiene, we will not expect children to wear school uniform. They should come to school in their own clothes, with just a plastic lunch box (unless you have ordered a school dinner) and a named drink bottle. No other personal belongings should be brought into school. Each 'Bubble' group has a designated toilet and children will be supervised washing their hands regularly to establish good handwashing habits. All children and their teachers will use hand sanitiser at a special station before entering and leaving the classroom. Although these routines sound regimented, our teachers are very good at turning important actions into fun activities and will be giving the children plenty of opportunities to explore the many issues that Coronavirus has raised for them.

It is important to stress that this is Phase 1 of our plans for return and we hope that the Government will soon give us instruction to reopen for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. All our plans will also be dependent on the support of the unions who have been included in the process of risk assessing, along with our Governing Body and Trust. We will of course continue to review our own risk assessment and our strategy over the coming weeks in response to Government guidance and the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

We are all looking forward to bringing our exceptional school family back together again, one step at a time and we thank you once again for your understanding and the overwhelming support that you give to us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Helen Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Helen Thomas
Executive Headteacher