



## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Birchley

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Headteacher: Mrs Andrea Hymers, B.Ed.(Hons)



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of term, and following the announcement on Thursday by the government to re-open schools fully from September 2020, I am writing to inform you of the arrangements in place for the rest of this academic year.

### **Reception and Year 1 Bubbles:**

The Reception and Year 1 Bubbles will **close** on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.**

### **Year 6 Bubbles:**

Many of our Y6 children have been in school since the beginning of school closure and these children have been taught in a Y6 Bubble for many weeks. These children are Y6 Bubble A.

The remainder of our Y6 children who have yet to return to school are being invited in for one week only - week beginning Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. These children will be known as Y6 Bubble B. (See separate Y6 letter for further details.)

**Both Y6 Bubbles will close on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.**

### **Key Worker Bubbles:**

School currently has 4 Key Worker Bubbles running. We would also like to close these bubbles on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** if we are able to do so. However, we recognise that our school does not officially close for summer until Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and some Keyworker families have requested places for their children until this date. These places will be available, if needed, in newly created/mixed bubbles. However, please note that these bubbles will be run by our teaching assistants from Mon 20<sup>th</sup> – Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> July on a care basis only – no teaching will take place and teachers will not be supervising any bubbles.

If any children from the Rec, Y1 and Y6 bubbles fall into the Key Worker category, and the children have attended Key Worker School previously, and a place is needed for these final three days, please let school know.

Parents of children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 who need a Keyworker School place for Mon 20<sup>th</sup> – Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> **MUST** also ring school to book a place. Children will not be permitted to attend school unless a place has been booked.

School has not taken the decision lightly to close all bubbles (if possible) from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, but feel that it is a necessary action that needs to be taken in order to allow staff the time to prepare for a full re-opening in September.

This time to prepare is essential if we are to offer our children a safe learning environment to return to. Desks and furniture will need to be rearranged; classrooms and resources will need cleaning and timetables will need re-structuring.

These three days will also enable staff the time to adapt our curriculum in recognition of the fact that many of our children have not been to school in over five months. This in itself is a considerable task to undertake and in order to ensure that we can deliver a well-structured; sequential; broad and balanced curriculum that is able to take into account any gaps in learning, all teaching staff need to be present to ensure that skills and knowledge are built upon from one year to the next.

Closing our bubbles to all but those children, who need essential care, will enable our staff the opportunity to do this and we would really appreciate it if parents were able to support school in this.

A more detailed, re-opening letter, with arrangements for September will be uploaded onto the school's website on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you all for your continued support in what has been, and still remains, a challenging and uncertain time.

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Kind regards



Mrs Andrea Hymers  
Headteacher