

ST ANDREW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Seven weeks ago school closed to most of our pupils. We have remained open only to pupils whose parents are key workers and a small number of other identified pupils.

Last night, the Prime Minister said a phased return to school would begin on 1st June with pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, if infection rates and the government's other tests at the time allow it. These were the "first careful steps" and the timetable for reopening would be delayed if necessary, he said.

We will await guidance on this so that we can ensure that any reopening of school to larger numbers is done in a safe way for children and staff. It would appear that there will be more specific guidance published tomorrow (Tuesday). We will be looking for clear directives on how to maintain social distancing if Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 come back to school. For us, this could be over 120 children. We will need to plan this carefully.

This has been a very stressful time for everyone. At St Andrew's, we are trying to balance how we open for some children, provide materials for parents to use with their children at home, keep staff safe who are still working in school, plan ahead for any potential reopening and, like everyone, worry about our own health and that of our families. We currently have eight members of staff who are self-isolating.

Thank you to the parents who continue to work alongside us in these unprecedented times. Each school is coping with this situation in the best way they can with very little support in terms of what to do and without any personal protection for staff.

Lots of people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening. This includes parents working with their own children at home. We have had lots of positive comments about the work we put on the school website each week. There are some parents who think it might have been done differently. There isn't a requirement for schools to produce this material. There isn't a requirement for parents to spend all day teaching their children either. Again, each school is approaching this in their own way. It is not helpful to compare schools.

We have chosen not to use an online platform such as Zoom. Staff were rightly concerned about the safeguarding issues this would raise. There has been an example in a school recently where the children's accounts were hacked and pornography posted.

The work that has been sent is a suggestion. It is a bank of ideas that you may want to use. An ideal would be some reading and writing every day, some maths games or practical maths,

exercise, enjoying some art or music. There is a useful guide to home learning that I posted on the school website a few weeks ago.

Don't ever feel that you are not doing enough. You are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health.

We will continue to update you as we find out more ourselves.

Yours sincerely



D Marsh
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dyslexia aware school

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