

Lympsham Green, Odd Down,
Bath, Somerset. BA2 2UN



T: 01225 832 112
E: School@stmartinsgarden.org.uk
W: www.stmartinsgarden.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs C Parfitt

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wednesday 18th May

I would just like to continue to thank you for your patience and continued support. As you will no doubt know, on Sunday 10th May the government issued plans for pupils' phased return to school, after half term. Since then, the PAT schools have been working together to ensure a consistent strategy for managing this – with safety of paramount importance. We have been working on a scalable model, that sets pupils into smaller groups, and that can be added to over time as school potentially opens for more year groups later in the term.

We have been advised to ensure the following:

- Smaller classes no greater than 15 pupils – 'bubbles'
- No mixing of 'bubbles' throughout the day or across the week – staggered break and lunch times
- Minimising use of shared spaces and resources – pupils to have own resource pack in school provided by us
- Staggered drop off & pick up – to maintain social distancing
- Increased cleaning
- That children who are Extremely Clinically Vulnerable pupils (shielded) are not to return to school
- That children who are Clinically Vulnerable should only attend school if medical advice deems it safe to do so
- Pupils living in a household with a person who is extremely clinically vulnerable (shielded) should only return to school if stringent social distancing can be maintained at home and the child is able to understand and follow instructions.
- Therefore, if you removed your child from school before the lockdown started, it is unlikely that you should now be returning your child to school unless medical advice dictates otherwise.

Pupils will be coming into school from 1st June at the earliest.

Who will be attending school?

Governors and the Palladian Academy Trust have supported a staggered phased return from 1st June-or whenever we are asked to open. Therefore Year 6 will be able to join their bubble on Monday 1st June (1- 5 June), followed by Y1 on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th June and the following week (8th -12th June) Year 6, Year 1 and Reception bubbles will all be in. This will allow the school to gradually assimilate all the guidelines issued and iron out any issues. We will be running **morning and afternoon bubbles** for each Year group or an extended morning for the two bubbles in the Margaret Coates Centre. **If your child is in Year R, 1 and 6 and they are not attending that day but normally attend you will need to phone the office.**



All of this will serve to minimise risks but will not erase them altogether.

Your child's bubble may be staffed by adults that are different to those who normally teach and support them.

Potential re-opening for other Year groups and Home Learning

The Government have stated they wish all children to be back in school for at least a month before the usual break. This means a potential re-opening for all year groups in school sometime in late June, **if it is considered safe to do so**. As soon as we have notice of this, we will be in touch. In the meantime, home learning will continue.

Home Learning will continue for **Years 2,3,4,5** and **pupils not attending Reception and Year 1 and 6**. Thank you for all your ongoing hard work as explained previously it is very much with mixed emotions that we are unable at the moment to see your child in school. We will continue to upload learning to the Class DoJo accounts and we will also continue to send out paper based Home Learning at the beginning of next term. The teachers are busily getting it ready and we hope to deliver your next pack during the first week of Term 6. We will also continue to phone those families of children who are not in school on a regular basis to see how you are. Those supporting your child's Home Learning may change after the 1st of June as we reopen. I will inform you nearer the time about these changes.

Free School Meals

We will continue to provide a Free School Meal offer to all those not in school and a further letter will be sent out containing details of this by the end of this week.

I continue to appreciate the information we provide will lead to a range of emotions for all of you – from excitement at the prospect of returning to school, to anxiety at the thought of keeping safe and managing changes, to curiosity of how it will all work. Also for those Year groups not coming back including siblings who will not be returning. They will feel a further range of emotions as they will not see their friends and teaching staff while they remain at home. Please be reassured we will continue to support you and your family in any way we can.

An extraordinary amount of work has happened and is happening on the site in a very short space of time to find a way to welcome children back. If, however, the Government changes its guidance and no longer requires us to open the school we would continue to provide child care for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable children as we have done throughout.

In order to allow time for staff to prepare for these changes to routine to meet remotely to discuss the arrangement, **there will be no online learning support available from staff on Thursday this week**. We apologise for this short notice however; we are working to very tight deadlines.

Further details about our planned re-opening for Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and those who have been attending our Key Worker and Vulnerable Child Care Provision can be found in the Additional Information document attached. Please see below.

I'm sorry this is very complicated, but it does illustrate the complexity of the planning that has gone into making this work. If you do have any questions or queries, Please could I ask that you **do not direct questions towards class teachers via DoJo accounts or emails but that you email the school** | school@stmartinsgarden.org.uk or **leave a message on the school answerphone 01225 832112 and myself, Mrs Horn or Mr Bogg will get back to you.**

Continue to make sure you look after yourselves and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries. Take care and Keep Safe!

Kind regards, Claire Parfitt, Head teacher

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Additional Information for children in Year R, 1, 6 and those who have been attending our Key Worker and Vulnerable Child Care Provision.

If you have not yet responded to the PAT questionnaire we will be phoning you over the next few days to confirm whether your child will be attending. This will allow us to plan the bubble so we can inform you before the 1st June as to whether your child will be attending in the am or pm bubble for their Year group.

Class Structure

We have produced a scalable model so that, should more pupils be able to come into school before the summer holiday, we can maintain social distancing and the integrity of the bubbles and prioritise pupils' and adults' safety.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be split into mini-bubbles. We will be providing provision from Monday – Friday. Your child will either attend the morning bubble approximately (9-12pm) or the afternoon bubble approximately (12.30-3.30pm) there will be staggered starts and we will provide information about this once your child's bubble has been confirmed.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and attends the Margaret Coates Centre there will be two bubbles one for children from Reception to Year 1 and the other for Children in Year 6 alongside which will include children who are already attending. The bubbles will run from (9-1pm)

We also hope that in the future we will be able to increase the length of the school day.

We **will not be able** to change the sessions your child attends as this will cause social bubbles to mix.

For Children of Key Workers, we will continue to provide the provision already in place in their own Bubble. If your days are changing, please continue to let us know in advance so that we can ensure we are able to provide provision. If you are a Key Worker and you have not previously needed provision, please phone or email the school and we can make arrangements to support you and your child.

Social Distancing

While we acknowledge that it will be extremely hard for some children to fully understand the concept of social distancing we do expect all children to have some understanding of this in an age appropriate way. We will be teaching the children in school about this however we know you



will have spoken to them about this as well. While the learners are in class verbal feedback and self-assessment will be used and we will not be physically marking pieces of work.

Lunches

Pupils will eat their packed lunch in their classroom, unless the weather permits us to eat a socially distanced lunch outside. All pupils in Reception and Year 1 will be provided with a Universal Free School Meal packed lunch. Older pupils entitled to free school meals will also receive a packed lunch. Please note no hot meals will be served. If you would like to purchase a school packed lunch then please inform the office, the cost will be £2.35. The start of lunchtimes will be staggered so that pupils can access outside space. Packed lunches from home should be brought into school in a throw away bag. If you need any support with this let us know.

Drop off Pick Up, Entrance and Classrooms

There will be an extended drop off and pick up time in order to allow for a staggered start and finish time for both the morning and afternoon bubbles. Signs on the playgrounds and doors will help direct where you should go. Year 6 children will enter through the Year 5/6 entrance. Year 1 through the Year 3 / 4 entrance and Reception through the Year 1/ 2 door. All children will go to the classroom on arrival to prevent a build-up of people on the playground.

The children will be greeted by an adult before they are directed to wash their hands and make their way to their classroom. If you need to talk to the teacher or have any questions then please phone as they will be unable to talk at any length in order to ensure everyone leaves the site promptly. If there is anything they need to discuss they will phone you and if you have any questions then please email or phone the office.

We would kindly ask where possible that only one adult drops the children off. We are aware some families may have children in different year groups (for whom the school is open); in order to keep family units together, older siblings should arrive at the same time as the youngest and go straight to class.

Pupils will be split as much as possible so that there is space between each child and toilets they can use will be clearly labelled.

Please do not return any reading books or bring in book bags at the moment- we will give more details about these after we have settled into the new routines.

Uniform and Equipment

Pupils attending school will need to wear a clean set of clothes each day. We would prefer this to be school uniform, however, for Term 6, if their daily outfit varied from our usual school uniform expectation, this will be acceptable (some will have outgrown theirs). Please ensure that your child comes into school wearing clothes that are clean, practical and suitable for both inside and outside learning, as we will not be changing for different activities. Footwear should be trainers. Please do not send in any P.E bags.

We will be providing every child in school with a named water bottle so you do not need to worry about sending one in. We would also kindly ask that no bags are brought into school unless they are disposable and are just carrying your child's packed lunch for that day. We have hand sanitiser in school so children should not need to bring their own. Pupils in Year 1 and Year 6 will be given resources in a labelled zip-lock bag (not reception).

Behaviour

Our school rules are being revised to ensure that children are clear about what is expected of them when attending school at this time. Children who struggle to maintain reduced physical contact or follow our school rules may have to remain at home for the safety of other children and the staff.

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Hand washing

Pupils will wash their hands on arrival in the morning, and at various points throughout the school day, including before eating snacks at the end of break times, at the beginning and end of lunch, after using the toilet, tissues for noses and before they come home.

Play equipment

Children will have access to a box of play equipment in their bubble for example balls, rackets, hoops etc. which will be exclusive to them. Children will be washing their hands thoroughly after each play session. Children will not be able to bring in any of their own play equipment.

Social Distancing Playgrounds and the School Office

Parents will be asked to drop off and collect their child (including Year 6) from school in order to ensure social distancing is maintained.

Parents must wait outside the school gates at a distance of 2m from each other until they're opened. We ask that all children and parents leave the playgrounds promptly at drop off and pick up times.

The office, like the classrooms, will not be open in the usual way. If you need to contact us, please email or call and leave a message and we'll get back to you. Parents and Visitors will not be able to enter any of the school buildings without prior appointments.

We would kindly ask that you arrive promptly for drop off and pickups so that we can prevent morning and afternoon bubbles from mixing.

Face Coverings, First Aid and PPE

Government guidance suggests that face covering are not necessary in school. You may choose to send your child into school with a face covering, however please note, that members of staff cannot help them put it on or take it off, nor can staff be responsible for ensuring that your child keeps their face covering on. PPE will be worn only when there is need for staff to be offering more intimate care, or working at closer quarters. When administering first aid, gloves aprons and masks will be used.

Illness

If your child or someone in the house has a high temperature, a persistent cough or loss or change to their sense of smell or taste do not send your child to school. Staff will also be following the same advice.

If someone becomes unwell they will be sent home immediately and follow the COVID-19 government guidance. If a child is awaiting collection they will be isolated with a supporting adult and this staff member will wear PPE. No other child within the bubble needs to go home, however parents will be informed.



What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

I'm sorry this is very complicated, but it does illustrate the complexity of the planning that has gone into making this work. If you do have any questions or queries,

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