



Dear Parents and Carers,

We had an interesting few days in school last week trying to work the government guidance released over the last couple of weeks into a plan that is workable for St. Matthew's. We worked through a few different proposals and we are now able to present you with something that we feel sets the right balance between a safe return to school and one that ensures that children can return in a reasonable timeframe.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience. I wanted to come to you with some detail, so I have held off writing until today. I would also like to thank senior leaders, the staff team and our governing board for the support and input that they have contributed over this period. It has been invaluable.

In line with other schools in Stockport and providing the government's conditions for re-opening primary schools has been met, we will begin to re-open to further groups of pupils from the week beginning 8th June. Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th June will be staff INSET days. On those days, we will be preparing the site and running through procedures and processes with staff in school.

If you are a key worker and require childcare on those two days, please contact emily.comyn@cdatstmatthewsprimary.co.uk using the subject line COVID-19 Key Worker. Stockport Local Authority are collecting that information and I believe that they will be making some childcare available to families that need it. This will not take place at St Matthew's.

From 10th June onwards, our own key worker provision will resume. We will be reviewing our registers and offering places to some other families that need support. There will be some changes to that provision as we begin to increase the numbers on site, but we will keep you informed in good time.

In planning, our aim has been to maximise the number of pupils that we can have on site in a safe way. In order to do that, we will be phasing the return to school of the year Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Nursery. These classes will return on a part-time basis initially. We have made this decision in response to health and safety advice.

Each class will be split into two groups: one called 'Doves' and one called 'Rainbows'. Doves will attend on Monday and Tuesday; Rainbows will attend on Thursday and Friday. You will be informed which group your child is in before the end of this week.

On Wednesday classrooms will be closed for thorough cleaning and preparation of the site. Key worker provision will be in a separate part of the building and will continue on Wednesdays as usual. These arrangements are in place to take account of the building configuration and the needs of our children.

The headlines of our reopening plans are as follows:

- Children will return in groups of 15 spread over two classrooms and will remain in this 'bubble' for the duration of the school day.
- Children will not be able to move between 'bubbles', e.g. a child cannot attend part of the week with their class, then part of the week in the key worker group. Families will have to decide whether the class group or the key worker group works best for them.
- Children will be taught by staff that they are familiar with, i.e. teacher or TA that they usually work with.
- Reception will be the first year group who return to school, followed by Y1, then Year 6 and Nursery after that.
- In order to keep each 'bubble' separate, pick up and drop off times, breaks and lunch times will be staggered across the day.
- Y2/3/4/5 will continue to learn virtually using the fantastic resources our class teachers have been putting on line and liaising with staff through Class Dojo.
- School will be closed to all year groups (except for key worker children) on Wednesday every week.
- The kitchen will re-open and provide meals for pupils on site.
- We will not be able to provide before and after school clubs.

The dates of the phased return for the first stage of re-opening school are as follows:

Date commencing	
Thursday 11 th June – Friday 12 th June	Reception Rainbows start back at school
Monday 15 th June – Tuesday 16 th June	Reception Doves attend school Year 1 Doves attend school
Thursday 18 th June – Friday 19 th June	Reception Rainbows attend school Year 1 Rainbows attend school Nursery Rainbows attend school (Half days) Year 6 Rainbows attend school
Monday 22 nd June – Tuesday 23 rd June	Reception Doves attend school Year 1 Doves attend school Nursery Doves attend school (Half days) Year 6 Doves attend school
Thursday 25 th June – Friday 26 th June	Reception Rainbows attend school Year 1 Rainbows attend school Nursery Rainbows attend school (Half days) Year 6 Rainbows attend school

Beyond this date, the government has spoken about all children having some access to school before the end of the summer term. We are really keen to make that happen, but we await further information from the Department for Education regarding what that is going to look like. Our over-riding priority will be to ensure that pupils and their families are kept safe.

Many of you have already spoken to your child's class teacher, expressing concerns about coming back to school. We understand that there may be some anxiety amongst parents

and pupils. This is a very strange and uncertain time. If families do decide not to take up a place that is offered, usual absence procedures, such as Education Penalty Notices, will not apply. We will understand and support any decision that you make as best we can. If you decide not to return initially, there will be scope to admit pupils to their class 'bubbles' at a later date.

Finally, it is fair to say that those children that do come back will not be returning to the same sort of provision that they were used to before we closed the school in March. As I am sure you will appreciate, it is very difficult to guarantee social distancing will take place in schools, but we will be taking steps to ensure work stations and other areas are adequately distanced. There will be an increased emphasis on hygiene and some resources that the children are used to using will not be available.

We will make every effort to make our curriculum and the environment a friendly and welcoming place and one that the children are happy in. We will send further information about new rules and procedures that we will be following and we will ask our parents to talk to their children about what school will look like on their return.

If you are a parent of a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, please can you take the time to complete this very short survey to let us know your intentions regarding the scheduled return to school outlined above: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P29T6ZS>

We are looking forward to welcoming more children back to St. Matthew's. In the meantime, we hope you remain fit and happy. We all keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Murphy
Headteacher