



**Friday 12th February 2021**

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

Firstly, what a term! From cards, emails, messages, biscuits, cakes, sweets we have been overwhelmed by your support. When the Prime Minister announced partial school closures, for the second time, in less than 48 hours we had made and distributed 245 resource packs, and the teachers were teaching both in class and remotely. Parents, you had redesigned your living rooms to represent classrooms and ensured that our children continued to thrive.

A national lockdown is hard for everybody, to be unable to see your family and friends takes it toll on us all. It is difficult when your children ask to visit their friends or have their friends to play; however, by explaining to your child that right now to keep everybody safe we must follow the rules and the rules are the same for every child in the country.

I have attached government legislation here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#meeting-other-people>

It is against the law to meet up with other people socially, whether this is inside or outside.

You can form a support bubble if:

- you live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support
- you are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability
- your household includes a child who is under the age of one or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5
- you are aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults
- you are a single adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18 or were under that age on 12 June 2020

*To live, love and learn with the guidance of God*

Acting Headteacher: Mrs A McClurey

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**You should not form a support bubble with a household that is part of another support bubble.**

**A childcare bubble is different to a support bubble.**

A childcare bubble is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to anyone under 14. All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered.

**You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble.**

You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare. You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.

Our number one priority will always be the safety of our school family: our pupils and their families, and our staff. The staff have continued to work throughout the pandemic, without PPE and as yet without a vaccine. To ensure the safety of all it is essential that we must continue to follow the rules. We want nothing more than to have our St Mary's family back together and hopefully by all playing our part, following the rules, the numbers will continue to decrease and it will be safe enough on March 8th to open our doors to all.

We are truly blessed to have such a supportive school community. We are unashamedly ambitious for all of our pupils and we will continue to strive for the best education for each and every one of them. I am extremely proud to lead St Mary's, we have phenomenal staff from Mr Harland, the office staff, the cooks and cleaners to outstanding teaching staff. Every single member of our staff has continued to work together to not only keep our children safe but to ensure they continue to learn and thrive during this difficult time. We know also that we absolutely could not achieve this on our own and on behalf of all the staff we would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to you, our parents and carers. Your children are a credit to you, they have shown bravery, resilience and sheer determination. The children have the highest aspirations for themselves and rightly so. They can see through their own hard work, how much progress they are making - even with school closures.

Please remember, we are always here to help, if there is anything you are struggling with then please don't hesitate to contact school. Finally, we hope you have the loveliest and restful half term and although it may be quieter than usual, we hope through the powers of technology, you can stay connected with your loved ones.

God Bless

Mrs Anna McClurey

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