

# TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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June 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Most recent Government advice about phased reopening of schools**

This is the most detail I can share with you today as, surprisingly, no further specific guidance has come to schools yet since Tuesday's announcement in Parliament.

The Government **no longer expects lower schools to bring back all year groups before the end of the summer term**. We have been informed that we now need to focus on any capacity we have for N, R and Yr. 1 children, any additional requirements for children of Key Workers or vulnerable children as their Parents/Carers may be returning to work, and also, if there is capacity for teaching bubbles, we need to prioritise our transition year group i.e. for us that is Year 4.

## **So what does this mean for TSG?**

- We know that sadly we have **no staff capacity currently to expand for Years N R or 1.**
- We hope and think we **MAY** have some staff and space for
  - one new Key worker bubble
  - some Year 4 transition bubbles

but **this can only be confirmed once staff medical needs have been reviewed** following the Covid medical needs period for some of our staff. This period doesn't finish until they receive letters or medical guidance today and tomorrow.

So, provided the official guidance doesn't change, to give you as much certainty as I can, as quickly as possible;

- We will be taking responses back from staff this weekend regarding any additional availability in the light of their respective medical needs
- We will send out **another survey for you to complete early next week** so you can make your personal decision about whether you want your child to return to a teaching bubble in school before the summer holiday (n.b. this will only be related to the teaching bubbles we may be able to offer-see above).

Once we have numbers re staff availability and pupil's numbers I will then send the next arrangements to you. I intend to do that by the middle of next week, and we will also give information about how we will plan support for other children who will not have been in school and so may return in September. I do apologise I can't give you more information as hoped today. However, this should mean you are informed about what we hope to achieve and the process by which you will be able to make your decisions accordingly.

**Please don't email in about any phased expansion to teaching bubbles at the moment** as you can see we need to have more information from staff and Parents /Carers before we can be more helpful to you. The school cannot change the Government guidance given. It is also much more **equitable and efficient to send you the survey** out so you can respond with your views at the same time as others than to ask for email responses.

**Timing** Due to the requirements we need to comply with prior to opening a new bubble, and staffing, it is very unlikely that any new teaching bubbles would open before June 29<sup>th</sup>. We will move that forward to June 22<sup>nd</sup> if we possibly can.

**Other guidance for Parents about Free School Meals vouchers.** The Government won't provide FSM funding over the summer holidays. The Government said on 9<sup>th</sup> June it won't provide funds for free school meals (FSM) over the summer holidays (i.e. from July 17<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>). This means the vouchers you may have been receiving will not be available for the summer period I am afraid.

#### **On a brighter note!**

**Zoom** Please do encourage your child to Zoom if you can –it really helps the children to remain connected to their friends and teachers.

**Puffins bubble** have managed very well this week as they have joined school

**Reports** Some great comments have come in from Parents and Carers for us to add into the reports–thanks so much for sending them in.

**Year 4 Transition tab** Do have a look on the Parkfields website under Family and Yr. 4 transition.

**On a jollier note (pardon the pun!) 'The Big Sing' is next Friday** Do read the details attached and register, if you would like, to join the national Big Sing next Friday afternoon.

Have a good weekend

Jane Spencer,

Head teacher