

St Marys C of E Primary School  
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Barnsley  
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Head Teacher: Mr L Spencer  
Deputy Head: Mr C White

15 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another very odd school year, can I say a huge thank you to you all for your support and understanding during this difficult time. Sadly, it has been a year of restrictions, lack of classes mixing, bubble closures, individual and family isolations and changes to almost every aspect of school life. However, throughout this all, the pupils have been amazing. They have taken on board all the changes, e.g. hand sanitising, sitting in rows, not being able to play with children from other classes and temporary school closures, exceptionally well. They have shown their resilience, determination and energy to succeed. They have adapted brilliantly to new ways of working and as a school, we could not be prouder of every single one of them.

From September, we will of course be following the operational guidance as laid out by Government. This will be used to develop our risk assessments and plans for September. We intend to continue with the one-way system for entering the school grounds, with pupils being dropped off at their classroom door (or alternative door) at least at the start of the Autumn Term. Other measures will continue to be in place, especially in the first few weeks to ensure the safety and efficient running of the school. During the Summer Holidays, myself, Mr White and others in school will be meeting to draw up more details on how the school will function once we have had further guidance. We will inform you of these changes during the last week of the holidays in order to ensure a smooth start to the new academic year. This will be by letter sent through Parent Pay and also be available on the school website.

I will be speaking with the year 6 pupils tomorrow morning via Team but as I am currently isolating, can I take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to all our Year 6 parents for whom tomorrow is their last day at St. Mary's. I know for some parents this is the end of rather a long connection with school over many years. It really has been a privilege to see how your children have developed during their time with us. I am sorry I am not able to be in school at the moment to say goodbye in person, but I do wish them (and you) all the very best for the future.

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I know for many of you original summer holiday plans will have been changed, not only once but a number of times during the last few months, but I really hope that you and the children have a relaxing summer with plenty of opportunities to spend quality time together.

I look forward to welcoming you back into school on the 7<sup>th</sup> September for the start of what I hope will be an exciting, engaging and essentially a more 'normal' school year.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Spencer

Executive Head