



June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you are all ok and remain safe and well. I am hoping that the easing of some of the restrictions has meant that you have now managed to see some of your friends and family. Many of us have now adapted to lockdown but the news of more and more shops opening leaves me a little uneasy! Although, I did venture to B&Q on Saturday (my first shop that wasn't a supermarket!) and I was very excited to be out and about!

You are likely to have heard last week that the 'R' rating in the North West went above 1 which the Government said would cause concern. We therefore decided that the safest thing to do while Stockport gained some specific health data was to postpone our wider re-opening to the Reception children who were due to start back on Wednesday. This was really disappointing as we were really looking forward to seeing them. I am now delighted to say that we are welcoming back Reception and Year 1 children on Monday 15th June. Then, all being well we will remain on track to welcome Year 6 and then Nursery. We'll keep you posted though. Your children's and the staff safety remains the priority in all the decisions we make.

The school has remained open since lockdown and even provided childcare through the two week Whit holidays. The staff have been remarkable and I couldn't be more proud of them. We miss the children though. This week the teachers have started their second round of check-in phone calls. The purpose of these is just to see how you and your child are and if there is anything we can do. We are calling because we care. Thank you to those of you who have really valued this. The staff tell me that speaking to the children in their classes has been a real highlight.

Below you will find further updates and news.

Will school open to Years 2,3,4 and 5?

In all honesty this is very unlikely. As we can only have bubbles of no more than 15, we have to space the children out much more than we would do normally (to maintain the 2 metre social distancing). Each bubble also needs two adults in it. We have the plans in place to bring back Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Nursery but this uses all of our adults and the majority of our rooms. If the guidance on social distancing changes then we will be able to review this. This is not just at St Marks – this is the same across the country. All children will receive a school report at the end of the school year. More information will follow soon on this.

School plans for September

Although we do not know how COVID-19 will be impacting on schools in September there are some things we can look forward to.



We will be officially known as Bredbury St Marks. We have had the new logo drawn up based on the children's designs. We actually merged two children's drawing together to create the final version. What do you think?

Remember the winged lion is the official symbol of St Mark's and represents POWER and IDENTITY.

The new uniform has been ordered so please do not purchase any blue sweatshirts if your child is in school or due to be in soon. More information on the first jumper and tie that we will provide for you coming soon.

We've given the entrance area a lick of paint and have started to have a look at how certain rooms are being used so we can make the best use of space.

Uplifting displays

Over the last 12 weeks the key worker children and vulnerables have been doing a fantastic job of keeping everyone positive. I wanted to share some of the displays with you.



Staff training

At the beginning of this week ALL staff received trained on the new health and safety measures that need to be in place to allow more children back into school. This included how to make the classrooms feel comfortable and safe while ensuring social distancing. The staff were incredibly positive as we all want to encourage the children back to the safe environment that we have created. Please contact me if you wish to discuss your child returning to one of the named year groups.

Have your work circumstances changed?

We know that times are really tough at the moment. If your circumstances have changed and you are no longer working you may be entitled to free school meals for your child. At the moment this means you would get a £15 voucher per week for a supermarket of your choice.

Please visit Stockport council's website to see if you are eligible:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>



Contact details

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Please take care of yourselves and your families. We think of you all often and cannot wait to have a full school bursting at the seams with laughter, excitement and warmth.

We are so proud of how you have coped and supported the school and your families.

Remember we will be stronger because of this.

Kind Regards

E Harding

Emma Harding

Acting Headteacher