



# St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

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Wisdom Service Hope

Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## SMSJ is open to a select group of Year 1, Year 6 children and children of Key Workers

I am very pleased to be writing to inform you that we have brought back eligible primary and secondary children and have updated our planning to welcome additional groups this week. It has been heart-warming to have some of our children back in the school.

Staffing remains a key consideration as we plan for a safe and cautious return and we are managing their challenges of childcare, shielding, transport, anxiety and loss which I know so many of you are also experiencing. As our staffing capacity increases, we hope to increase proportionally the numbers of eligible students who we can accommodate in our primary and secondary phases for the remaining summer term.

Our campuses have been prepared to accept small groups of students and we have put the following measures in place:

- Temperature checks taken on arrival
- Separate entrance and exits for staff and students
- Hand sanitiser stations for students and staff throughout the school
- Personal Protective Equipment for staff
- First aid stations and separate facilities for anyone feeling unwell
- One way systems around each campus
- Small groups (*bubbles*) of 10 children to 1 member of staff
- Reduction of furniture and surfaces in classrooms
- Additional cleaning cycles through the day
- Staff training
- Consultation with unions (GMB, Unison, NEU, NASUWT, ATL, ASCL), the Local Authority, London Diocese and the Department for Education

Guidance from the Department of Education now suggests that we continue to focus on the following eligible groups of children: Year 1, Year 6 and Year 10. Below is an outline of how we are responding to this guidance within our school context.

### Year 1 children

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, those parents/carers indicated that they are happy for their children to return and will attend school at our Neale House Campus. These parents/carers will be contacted and the arrangements shared in detail. The parents/carers who remain undecided will be placed on a waiting list. Distance learning will continue for all other children.

### Year 6 children

This week at Bennett House, we have focused on the children whose parents/carers stated that they are happy for their Year 6 child to return to school. We have opened an additional Year 6 bubble from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Just to accommodate more children. These parents/carers have been contacted and the arrangement for return has been

Neale House Campus, Prothero Gardens, Hendon, NW4 3SL  
Bennett House Campus, Sunningfields Road, Hendon, NW4 4QR  
Stamford Raffles Campus, Downage, Hendon, NW4 1AB



shared in detail. Parents who wish to join the waiting list for a Year 6 place should email [office@smsj.london](mailto:office@smsj.london) and state "Year 6 Provision" in the subject line.

### **Year 10 children**

Our Year 10 and Year 12 children will be invited in for some face-to-face support and a programme of subject teaching. Further details will be shared with parents/carers of Year 10 and Year 12 children in the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **Key Worker Children**

We have been accommodating 46 children of Key Workers across our primary and secondary phases. This facility is in place to enable Key Workers to return to work whilst their child/children access their distance learning programmes from school.

In addition, our **Inclusion/SEND** teams are planning for children from other year groups to attend school for face to face meetings and support over the remaining weeks of the summer term.

Our **Year 9** children will be invited in for their routine Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis vaccinations at the beginning of July. We will be writing to parents/carers with the details of these postponed vaccinations in the next two weeks.

We are busy recording taught lessons which will be shared with secondary students online in addition to the continuing distance learning programme.

SMSJ is in the process of establishing a **food bank** which will be in operation before the end of the summer term and will operate throughout the summer break. This will offer food and toiletries to members of our school community who may now welcome additional support. If you would like to donate items for our food bank please drop off donations to our Stamford Raffles Campus between 9:00am and 2:00pm Monday-Friday. If you are in need of support and would like to receive a parcel from our food bank, please email [sgiacone@smsj.london](mailto:sgiacone@smsj.london) in the strictest confidence.

In preparation for the new academic year, curriculum areas are in the process of producing **personalised subject guides** and support materials for each year group. This resource will facilitate a return to school and help students to catch up on valuable content. We intend to have this ready for September.

In addition to the weekly letters issued by our Heads of Primary and Secondary schools, I will be writing to you to share our plans for the summer term and summer holidays and to inform you of our preparations for September as they develop.

I would like to again extend a heartfelt thank you for your overwhelming support and patience. I very much look forward to welcoming more students back into school and hopefully returning to some semblance of normality.

I sincerely hope that you and your loved ones remain safe and well.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Serrão  
Principal