



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Update on possible reopening of schools

Over the past week, with the information at our disposal and in line with government recommendations, we have been formulating a plan to enable a phased return to school for our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. The primary goal is to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of our pupils and staff.

I have no doubt that you are keen for more information in this regard and I must thank you for the patience you have shown so far. I am equally sure you appreciate that this is not a straightforward process, as the guidance is being updated fairly regularly which means we are constantly revising and adapting our plan. It is important to understand that all schools are unique, and we have to plan to accommodate our specific situation. There is no template to guide us as the situation is unprecedented. There are so many possible scenarios and each one raises a different set of outcomes which we need to consider. In essence, there is no perfect solution but we are positive that we will be able to offer the children a good experience, even if it is not quite the same as their previous learning experience. A return to school will offer some kind of normality which is important for our children at this stage.

The Government has now issued updated guidance and this has enabled me to set out for you a brief synopsis of our current plan as it stands. A more detailed plan will follow but this is all subject to change in line with any further guidance which may be issued over the next week and a half.

To recap, **if** the government thinks it is safe, schools will reopen from 1 June for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils.

The following bullet points summarise how we intend to manage this phased return:

- A bubble system will be introduced – The idea is that we will run six classes (bubble) per year group. This requires 24 staff to tutor and supervise each bubble. The teachers will continue to run a remote learning system for all pupils at home and at school, to ensure consistency across the curriculum. The class teachers or subject specialists will continue to plan lessons, and the staff assigned to each bubble will monitor the pupils' work as they progress through each lesson.

- Staff INSET– On 1 June the staff directly involved with year groups returning will receive guidance and training on the protocols of social distancing, the bubble structure, eating, medical procedures etc. On 2 June, Year 1 and 6 pupils will return to school at staggered times. On 3 June, Reception will return to school and on 4 June, our Nursery children will return to school. This phased return will also allow us to adapt our plans on a daily basis as necessary and as the need arises.



There will be minimal mixing and movement, as this is key to everyone's safety. The bubble system should limit staff and pupils interaction across the wider school population. Should an area become infected, the hope is that it would be limited to a specific bubble. Should it exceed this, it raises the possibility that each person would be passing the virus on to more than one person, allowing the epidemic to grow exponentially. For example, an 'R' rate of 1.5 would mean every 10 people infected, would infect 15 more people. Those 15 would, in turn, infect 22.5 people who would then pass the disease on to 33.7...

Limiting class sizes – This is arguably our biggest challenge as St Aubyn's is one of the largest prep schools in the country. We do need a significant number of staff to operate this system in school safely, whilst still maintaining the learning experience for those pupils who continue to learn remotely. As with any workplace, some teachers are currently shielding and there are others who have critical vulnerabilities. Safety is our overwhelming priority so this is a fine balancing act as we must ensure we have the right number of staff in school to operate safely.

Break times, and pick-up and drop-off times will be staggered

Strict cleaning protocols will be introduced for all occupied areas

Supervision will be available for key workers' children from Years 2 to 5 only.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable or living with someone who is in this group, they should NOT return to school and should continue to follow the remote learning programme. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) which outlines details for these groups.

Please be assured that we are in no way pressuring parents to send their children to school. It goes without saying that you know what is best for your child's health and wellbeing. We will provide you with further details next week so that you can make the best decision with all the information available to you. Of course, we will continue to support children with their home learning but please note that if those teachers are working with a class all day, they will not be available to assist those children who remain at home. Those pupils should submit work at the end of the day as usual.

In the meantime, please be aware that the School will be open for the children of critical workers during half term on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only.

We are continuing to plan for the return of all pupils at some point before the end of this academic year and we will keep you updated on our progress in this regard. Of course, this will be in line with guidance received. Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to receive their remote learning until they are able to return to school. If the teachers in Middle School are needed to cover as a result of illnesses or shielding, we will be in contact with you.



St. Aubyn's School

Bravely, Faithfully, Happily



Specific details regarding start times and end of day procedures will be sent at a later date. Please understand that we are not in a position to provide wrap-around care at this stage and the school day will be shorter as we adapt to these new systems and account for increased staff ratios. We do hope that as the weeks progress, we will be able to extend the day further.

You will have received your child's interim report. During this remote learning period, grades have been based on a combination of work that has been submitted online and prior knowledge of the children. The unusual circumstances that we find ourselves in, and the impact these are having on our pupils, have also been taken into consideration.

The final report for all year groups, published in July, will be a summative record of your child's performance across the academic year.

Congratulations to all the children who achieved commendations over the last few weeks. You have applied yourselves conscientiously to your learning – well done!

Emily	Thomas	RBW	Sihaam	Bhatti	3NL
Inaaya	Ahmed	RKO	Oliver	Ross	3SL
			Sarina	Mahmood	3SL
Guanghan	Zhu	1CM	Safah	Naeem	3SL
Juniper	Sukhija	1CM	Aneesa	Tagari	3SL
Skye	Samaroo	1CM	Holden	Morris	3SL
Florence	Galvani	1CM	Freya	Butcher	3NL
Arlo	Hanlon	1CM	Leo	Bristow	4UM
Manahil	Malik	1CM	Maya	Robinson	4VC
Oliver	Dzubay	1CM	Amna	Mehmood	4VC
Amrita	Atwal	1CM	Alice	Richardson	5MA
Elizabeth	Saunders	1RK	Ezra	Uguz	5MA
Zakaria	Ali	2NF			
Aaliyah	Shamim	6NS	Lexi	King	8SS
George	Haven	6MG	Farhan	Talukdar	8SS
Akpovona	Okenabirhie	6NS	Mabel	Shute	8SS
Bashna	Dar	6NS			
Zaid	Patel	6HE			
Nia	Okoye	6HE			

Enjoy the half – term break and depending on next Friday's announcement we might have some children back at school.

Sincerely,

Leonard Blom