[](http://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/)**St Gregory’s C E Primary School**

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**Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Field**

**“Where learning has no limits”**

13th May 2020



Dear Parents / Carers

Following my letter to you on Monday, the DfE / County have produced some guidance to schools following the Prime Ministers announcement on Sunday evening. We are looking at the possibility of year one and six returning and our youngest pupils in reception. I am currently working through all the guidance and creating a plan which will allow school to open safely for our children and staff.

The guidance is just that “guidance”, for school leaders to decide on what is best for their own schools. Every school is different and will be organising their structures for return in varying ways. One thing I can assure you of “safety is my number one focus”. Therefore I am in the process of completing a detailed risk assessment and putting plans together to ensure everyone in school can return safely. Obviously I cannot give a 100% guarantee, I can only go on what I am advised and follow this. This is where I’d like to gather your views and feelings on sending your child back to school in June to enable a plan to be finalised – regarding staffing, classrooms etc......

I appreciate there will be some of you who say “let’s just get on with it!” and I respect that, but there will also be those of you who have reservations and concerns and choose to keep your child at home until schools can safely reopen fully, and I totally appreciate that too. It is entirely your choice as a parent and therefore I am asking you to respond to the following questions and give your reasons if you can in email to me at: [head@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:head@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) by the end of this week.

•I/we will send my child/children back in when the school re-opens because:

•I/we will not send my child/children back in when the school re-opens because:

•I/we are undecided about sending my child/children back in when the school re-opens because:

I want to be honest with you and say that what I can confirm now (following the guidance) is that when school re-opens on June 1st, the school day will be not be the same; the curriculum will not be the same as before, we will have to stagger drop off times and pick up times to enable adults to socially distance, there will be “lots of hand washing”, your child may not be spending time in their “normal” classrooms or with their “normal” teacher, the children will not be allowed to touch or play closely with each other, they will have to use their own equipment (provided by school) which will be cleaned at the end of each day, there will be no sharing. Lunch time and playtimes will be staggered to prevent large numbers of children playing together, we may only be able to open part of the week due to staffing numbers and workload considerations due to them still setting “Home learning” tasks for the children not in school and there will be no assemblies, sports days etc. School will be very different but **WE WILL** do our best to **keep everyone safe and care and support our children** through this transition.

I would like to reassure you that we will follow the guidance given by the DfE and that from our Local Authority with regards to social distancing and minimising the risk but obviously it is difficult particularly with the younger children, as I’m sure you will appreciate.

Once I have spoken with all staff and our Chair of Governors, regarding the plan to reopen, I will share this with you and the decisions lies entirely with what you decide for your child. Whatever your decision you have my full support.

Thank you once again for the amazing work you are doing with your children and your understanding at this challenging time.

**Thinking of you all**

**Debbie Field**