



### St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents,

I am so very sorry to have to inform you but due to guidance issued last night by Telford and Wrekin Council, we are unable to continue with our plan for a Year 6 Family Picnic to celebrate your child's time spent here at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Even though we had a clear plan in place to keep all of our families safe that included measures such as 2 metre social distancing, the provision of anti-bacterial stations and wipes and the cleaning of activity stations, we are unable to proceed. It was communicated to us last night that it now **illegal** to organise a gathering of more than thirty people. I am so very upset by this news, upset and disappointed for the children and for the staff here at St Mary's. Many other schools across Telford and Wrekin will have found themselves in the same position. It is made all the more frustrating when only last night, we all saw footage of huge numbers of people at the beach with no restrictions in place whatsoever.

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**Excerpt from Telford and Wrekin's Guidance**

### **Celebration Events for Year 6 Pupils**

I know that a number of Primary schools are keen to mark the end of Year 6 pupils Primary education and are planning to host some celebrations. However, I have been asked to remind schools that **the guidance in relation to social gatherings has not changed**. Below is the highlighted area of the guidance for you.

### **As of 4 July, this will mean:**

- you can meet in groups of up to two households (your support bubble counts as one household) in any location - public or private, indoors or outdoors. You do not always have to meet with the same household - you can meet with different households at different times. However, it remains the case - even inside someone's home - that you should socially distance from anyone not in your household or bubble. This change also does not affect the support you receive from your carers
- when you are outside you can continue to meet in groups of up to six people from different households, following social distancing guidelines

- those who have been able to form a support bubble (i.e. those in single adult households) can continue to have close contact as if they live with the other people in the bubble, but you should not change who you have formed a support bubble with
- additional businesses and venues, including restaurants, pubs, cinemas, visitor attractions, hotels, and campsites will be able to open - but we will continue to keep closed certain premises where the risks of transmission may be higher
- other public places, such as libraries, community centres, places of worship, outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms will be able to open
- you can stay overnight away from your home with your own household or support bubble, or with members of one other household (where you need to keep social distancing)
- **it will be against the law to gather in groups larger than 30 people, except for a limited set of circumstances to be set out in law. Police will have the power to break up groups larger than 30, apart from these exceptions**

H&S advice is that schools are advised not to hold events on school fields for children and families. Because schools will be arranging and hosting the activity, this is classed as a ***gathering*** and as it states in the last point, it is against the law to gather in groups larger than 30 people unless defined by law.

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We cannot simply postpone the event because we do not know what the landscape will look like in September unfortunately.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Laurianne, one of our Governors, for organising the hoodies and photobooks to which we have contributed and to you for working with her so she can produce them. Both Mrs Lambie and I have contributed farewell letters to the book and photographs from school. In addition to this, we will create a goodbye video that all children will be able to access and we will send a pack of goodies to all children. Please know that your child is very special to us and will always belong here and when we can, we would wholeheartedly welcome your child back to see their teachers individually.

Warm wishes,

Samantha Griffiths

Headteacher