

# ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

You are most likely aware that there was an announcement last week about the phased reopening of school, commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March for some classes. There have since been some mixed messages. Yesterday afternoon the Education Minister emailed all principals to advise that:

*'...from 8 March until 19 March, pupils ... in P1 to P3 will return to full-time face-to-face teaching. This does not include any children in other primary school years who may be in composite classes with these pupils.... In recognition that any further increase in pupil attendance before mid-April has the potential to impact on the trajectory of the pandemic, the Executive have decided that to enable the return of qualification years, remote learning will resume for pre-school/nursery and pupils in P1-3 for the week beginning 22 March until the planned start of the Easter holidays for individual schools. Pre-school, nursery and primary schools pupils in P1 to P3 will then return to full-time face-to-face teaching after the Easter holidays along with years 12-14....I am prioritising the return of pupils in the early years in pre-school and primary school which are vital for children's development and pupils in years 12-14 who are engaged in learning for key qualifications....My objective remains to have a full return of all pupils to face to face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but I recognise this has to be balanced against the public health position.'*

The Minister has also indicated that school meals will be available when P1-3 pupils return. All COVID safety measures will remain in place. I thank-you for your support during remote learning and look forward to a day when we can welcome back all members of the school community.

Kind regards,

P. Kelly

Principal

