

17th June 2020

Dear Parents

The government has issued the following advice this week, "Inviting back additional pupils, where there is capacity" for transparency I have included the actual guidance as follows:

We know that in some schools, there will be capacity to welcome more children back, in group sizes of no more than 15, before the summer holidays. This may be because take-up amongst eligible children is lower than expected, or because there is additional space still available within the school and available staff to teach and supervise. There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so.

Primary schools should only welcome back additional children where:

- they have already made provision available for children of critical workers, vulnerable children, and children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 and have ensured as many as possible are able to attend (especially for those who would particularly benefit from being in school because of other disadvantage)*
- they can accommodate more children while still following the approaches set out in the protective measures guidance and their own risk assessment*
- they do not require additional funding, staff or classrooms to do so. If schools have access to space on other school sites (for example, local secondary schools, if that is feasible alongside the secondary offer) they may use this, taking care to ensure children stay in allocated groups. However, other community buildings (such as village halls) should not be used to expand capacity this term, while they remain closed in line with the government's roadmap*

Where schools have capacity, they may choose to welcome back additional pupils. It is up to schools to decide which pupils to prioritise, based on their knowledge of their children and communities. They may choose to welcome back pupils in another year group.

When deciding how to welcome additional pupils back before the summer, schools should consider how they will communicate to parents, including those with children in reception, year 1 or 6 who have not yet taken up their offer of a place. Schools should ascertain if those parents want to take up the offer, making it clear that if they indicate that they do not, or do not respond, schools may offer this capacity to another pupil in which case they won't subsequently be able to take up a place this term. They should ensure they are still able to accommodate vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

We have been in discussion with St Christopher's Trust leaders to see whether we have any further capacity to safely increase our offer before the end of this summer term. The Trust has asked us to apply the following principles to make our decisions locally as they are very dependent on our buildings, the needs of the pupils and the staff available.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S C OF E (PRIMARY) MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Unit 38 | Basepoint Business Centre | Yeoford Way | Marsh Barton | Exeter | EX2 8LB

T | 01392 241576

E | office@stcmat.org W | www.stchristophersmat.org

Company No: 08538844



1. We continue to prioritise those who were key workers from March, however this should not result in closing current pods in order to accommodate more key workers.
2. Where there are requests for a key worker place and no space in their year group pod, we will prioritise the child/ren on the waiting list. Currently we are open on a Friday for key worker children only and there are some spaces available.
3. If a place has been allocated to a key worker and they don't take the place they may lose it to another key worker on the waiting list.
4. Where schools have no capacity parents should be directed to the Local Authority who have a role to find places for key workers when capacity has been reached. In Devon the contact details are educate.covid19criticalworker-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or call 0345 155 1019

Unfortunately, due to the lack of available staff, we are unable to invite back any other year groups for the time being. If this changes as staff become available we will of course let you know. With five weeks of the school term remaining and knowing that many of you are needing to return to work and we are doing all that we can to ensure that we have the most BUT safest number of children in as possible.

We are currently planning how we maybe able to bring the children together in their September classes before the summer break. This may well be online if not actually in the building.

Meanwhile, we are making plans, hopeful of a full return in September but will have a back up plan in place if it becomes clear this is not likely to happen. We will let you know, nearer the end of term about this.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Marilton'.

Executive Headteacher

West Dartmoor Federation
(Meavy & Lady Modifords)

ST CHRISTOPHER'S C OF E (PRIMARY) MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Unit 38 | Basepoint Business Centre | Yeoford Way | Marsh Barton | Exeter | EX2 8LB

T | 01392 241576

E | office@stcmat.org W | www.stchristophersmat.org

Company No: 08538844