



SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery

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Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for waiting for us to contact you about the plans we are making to gradually re-open. We are grateful not to have been bombarded with questions since Boris Johnson announced an intention to reopen schools on Sunday because this demonstrates an understanding that considerable plans need to be put in place to ensure that school is a safe place for staff and pupils. Your patience is appreciated.

In this first letter, I write to give you details of the initial decisions made for our school. This is to help you make decisions that are right for you and help you make plans in regard to your own family and employers.

What we know:

Schools are to plan to reopen to named year groups from 1st June 2020 at the earliest.

There are no changes to provision or online working at the present time – please continue.

In the first instance SS Peter and Paul will open to **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**.

Work will be set for all pupils not able to attend yet, to access at home in the same way as it is now.

Pupils who have been attending regularly since schools closed can continue to do so and have received a separate letter.

What we do not know yet:

A date to reopen– the earliest date is Monday 1st June 2020.

Schools will only open on this date if the government confirm that infection rates still indicate that this is the right time to begin to open.

I cannot say when school will start to open to other classes because this has not been decided by the government. The government ambition is to see all primary age pupils return in some way before the end of the academic year, **if it is safe to do so**.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children

I ask parents with children in the following classes to read the information below carefully as it will help you to start to decide if you plan to send your child back to school when you can. It is your personal decision as a family to consider what is right for you to do:

- Classes have been split in to smaller groups (12 children or less).



- Class teachers and staff, who know the children well, have decided on the groupings, this is based on who will work well and feel comfortable staying together. These groups will not be altered.
- Your child will stay in this smaller group at all times in school.
- Each group will be taught in one classroom, allowing furniture to be spaced out in line with all recommendations.
- Where possible, staff who know the children best will teach your child. We have planned for very familiar staff to be the team to welcome your children back in the first instance.
- Each group will have access to sinks to wash their hands regularly and will use designated bathrooms for their year group only.
- Staff have made packs of equipment and stationary for each child to keep as their own – resources will not be shared.
- Equipment in classes has been arranged so that only wipe able hard surface equipment is used. Arrangements to clean this equipment regularly have been put in place (e.g. Lego will be sterilised, Ipads are cleaned with alcohol wipes after use)
- Break times and lunch times will be staggered. Boxes of play equipment for each small class will not be shared with other groups.
- All equipment will be cleaned regularly.
- School has ensured we have an ample supply of suitable cleaning products, soap, sterilising tablets, tissues and paper towels to keep excellent hygiene standards at all times.
- Signage and markings to make 2m distance clear to parents and children coming on to site will be in place.

Considerable thought has been put in to ensuring all children who do come back to school have access to things they will want to use and are familiar with, while ensuring this equipment is as safe to use as possible. We are blessed with a site with lots of outdoor playground and field space, which we will use daily to ensure children have the space to learn, play and eat their lunch in safe, organised spaces.

Staff have been in school delivering daily provision for a number of children every day since schools closed, including through holidays. They have experience of arranging activities and learning that is safe and complies with social distancing measures yet still enjoyable.

Arrangements yet to be confirmed because more government guidance for schools is released tonight, potentially affecting decision making for this school.

Start and finish times will be staggered to help people come on to site safely – these have not been finalised.

We will have groups of children come to school for **one week at a time**. There will be a rota for classes with **one week on and one week off**. This is to ensure we can keep staffing levels safe and accommodate more classes over time.

To enable the thorough deep clean of classes between groups come to school, we will close after lunchtime on a Friday so that parents and staff can be sure protocol for cleaning is robustly followed.

There will be no before school or after school care prior to September.

Arrangements for entry and dismissal, including exits and staggered times to make sure everyone can come and go as safely as possible have yet to be finalised.



This information may leave you with more questions. To help you make informed choices, I have published a **frequently asked questions document** that I will update with ongoing information that you may find helpful. This can be found on the website.

I hope parents who work can use this information to talk to your employer about how this could help you make arrangements to go back to work on the alternate weeks your child is at school. I fully understand that the decisions made for our school arrangements may be different to what you had expected or hoped, but it is too soon for any school to plan to have all children full time. Key worker and children classed as vulnerable will continue to attend as they have since 23rd March.

What happens next?

Next week, parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be sent a link to a survey to complete to say whether you plan to send your child when and if schools re-open. Please complete this survey. When I know numbers, I will make the final arrangements that families will need to know about coming back, including start and finish times, drop off and pick up arrangements, arrangements for school dinners etc. I will also be able to give you the dates for the weeks your child can come to school – one week in, one week off.

Please do refer to the frequently asked questions we have published on our website. These will continue to be updated regularly. If you have further questions not answered there, please email the school or send a message via SchoolGateway. You will get a response within 48 hours.

Again, I thank you for your support and understanding as we work hard to best serve our community at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Byrne

