

Letter: 5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well, safe and coping during these difficult times. It is a long time since we were together as a school community and you have all remained in our thoughts and prayers and will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead.

I am writing to you to outline plans to begin to re-open St. Catherine's Primary School throughout the forthcoming half-term.

Please be assured that decisions we have taken for the wider opening of school have been based upon a detailed risk assessment, ratified by the Governing Body, that will continue to underpin what we do as a school over the coming weeks. Please also know that we miss our children and our school community dearly and although school will look different upon return, we will still continue to prioritise the 'whole child' and will ensure that school remains a happy, loving and caring place for everyone.

As we move forward, the safety and well-being of all members of our school community will be at the heart of all we do, and as such we are proceeding in a cautious and considered manner.

As outlined in by the Government, the key year groups which we intend to return to school first are Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery, all on a part-time basis. Following this, once confirmed by the Government, we endeavour to bring back children from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well, again on a part-time basis, in order to provide all children with the opportunity to access learning in school before the end of term.

As you read our plans and guidance, you may feel disappointed that your child is not in one of the first groups returning, or perhaps anxious that they are within a year group identified to return soon. We know that there will be many different feelings within our community and please know we are here to help you.

You will find the following information attached to this email:

- COVID-19: Key Information for Parents and Carers - June 2020
- COVID-19: School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers

Even if your child is not in one of the key year groups planned to return first, we ask that you read through the attached guidance carefully so that you and your child have a good understanding of what school will look like upon return.

Before each year group's return, you will also receive an information booklet specifically for children, as well as a video personalised for each year group from your child's teachers to show them what school will look like, and to help them feel more confident to return.

We are now asking parents and carers of children in Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery to confirm your intention for your child will return to school on their planned start date, based upon the information provided. Please note, this does not mean that you cannot change your mind at a later point, but it means we are asking parents and carers to give a clear 'yes' or 'no' decision at the moment.

I would like to thank you for working in such close partnership with our staff since 20th March. The wonderful work that has been undertaken at home to ensure children continue to build upon their knowledge and skills has been uplifting to see.

Thank you also for the support you have shown to our hardworking staff team. Staff have continued to work tirelessly to provide the best for all families during this difficult time. We appreciate the overwhelming number of kind and thoughtful messages we have received over the past few months and we are lucky to be part of such a wonderful school community.

If you have any further questions after carefully reading through the guidance attached, we ask that you please email the school office so that a member of staff can be in touch to help you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Chwastek