

14 May 2020

### Phased return to school – primary schools

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are continuing to cope under the current circumstances. As you will be aware, under the Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy, a phased return for schools is planned.

- This is likely to start for primary schools on 1 June, although this has yet to be confirmed.
- **Children in nursery, reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will return first.**
- Key worker children and vulnerable children in other year groups will continue to attend **by pre arrangement with the school.**
- Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to be supported by home learning.
- **Unfortunately, in line with Government guidance, there is no provision for siblings in Years 2, 3, 4 or 5 to attend school.**

#### Attendance

- The Government strongly encourages parents and carers of children in the eligible year groups to send their children into school.
- However, we are aware that some of you may choose not to do this. They have said that parents will not be fined for non-attendance.
- You should be aware, that staff will not be able to continue with home learning in nursery, reception and Years 1 and 6, as they will be teaching classes in school.

#### Parent survey

- In order to support schools in their planning, it is important that we know if you intend to send your child(ren) into school.
- **If you have children in the eligible year groups, please could you complete the short Google form questionnaire by Monday 18th May at the latest if you haven't confirmed your decision whether to send your child or not with a member of the school staff already.**
- You will be able to change your mind and take up the place at school, if you contact school in advance.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9DYxInEsBfACHUMt7J1tDHpkvb1l34cSr7hFWdceS5A-3VA/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9DYxInEsBfACHUMt7J1tDHpkvb1l34cSr7hFWdceS5A-3VA/viewform?usp=pp_url)

#### INSET day

Please note that **Friday 22 May will be an Inset Day** in all of our primary schools, to allow time to finalise the practical arrangements.



### Safety measures

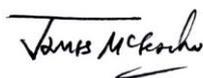
- We are required to follow Government guidance but want to reassure you that we have had lengthy discussions with Headteachers about how to ensure your children remain safe.
- This is particularly important as the Government has recognised that **younger children will not be able to socially distance**.
- We have set out below a list of measures we are putting in place in our school to ensure that your children as kept as safe as possible when they return:
  - ✓ We have carried out a through risk assessment ahead of the return to school.
  - ✓ Introduction of staggered drop-off and collection times – we will write to you shortly with new drop-off and pick-up times.
  - ✓ Promotion of regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser. and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it approach.’
  - ✓ Thermometers are available to screen children who are not well.
  - ✓ Reduce mixing between groups through timetable changes i.e. Pupils work in small groups or ‘bubbles’ within their class and only have contact with the children in this group during the day.
  - ✓ There will be staggered break and lunchtimes.
  - ✓ Cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, tabletops, play equipment and toys.
  - ✓ Children will have their own workstation with their own equipment in years 1 and 6.
  - ✓ Children in nursery and reception will only share equipment with children in their group or ‘bubble’ as by nature of their age and development stage they would struggle to sit at their own work station for the day and manage their own equipment.

### We ask parents to:

- ✓ Make sure that children and young people do not attend school if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus
- ✓ Promote regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach in the home setting to prepare pupils for the return to school
- ✓ Adhere to the drop-off and pick-up social distancing guidelines set out by the school

Guidance for parents on the reopening of schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

May God bless you and your families.



Yours sincerely

**James McGeachie**

CEO, Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT

**Mrs T Lane**

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