



Diocese of Westminster
SS. Peter & Paul
Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Miss T M Peters

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well and that the slight easing in lockdown will provide you with a few more opportunities to get out and about. As you will have seen and heard the Prime Minister has announced the next steps for schools and has set a date of 1st June for schools to re-open for certain Year groups. This still very much depends on the Government's five key tests being met.

The Leadership team and I are currently thinking about how this will take shape, but as you can imagine this is not straightforward. It is not going to be possible just to return to normal. Many of our children will be fine but some will feel anxious about returning. In addition to this some families will have ongoing issues at home whether it be shielding letters, work issues, concerns about grandparents or siblings who are still at home.

The government guidance has specified that the priority will be given to Nursery, then Reception followed by Year 1 and then Year 6, in this order.

Yesterday we gathered information for the specific year groups, to help us plan our move towards children starting back to school.

It is of vital importance that you complete the questionnaire sent out on Classlist called 'Year (whatever year group your child is in) returning to school information needed.' If you do not complete the form, we will assume you do not want a place for your child.

Thank you so much for all your thoughts and input in the re-opening school survey sent out on Wednesday. It will stay open until Sunday night for anyone else who has not contributed yet. We will use the information you have provided to help inform our school risk assessment.

The Guidance Outlines

When schools reopen, children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be invited in first.

Children will be introduced in small groups (10 and under) on a part time basis.

Children may not be with their normal class teacher.

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children will not be asked to be socially distanced from each other as government guidelines have specified that it is impractical and unnecessary.

Siblings of children in returning year groups will not be able to attend.

Home online learning through Google Classroom will continue for all children who are not in school.

Significantly increased hygiene measures will be implemented.

If you choose to keep your child at home, there will be no fines or penalties for their non-attendance.

Children of Key Workers and those who are considered vulnerable are still invited to attend school when necessary. Children who have attended prior to the return to school will continue with this group and will not join their class group. This is to further minimise risk.

What we are doing.

Some children are currently attending school because they fall into either the vulnerable or Key Worker category.

- There are strict social distancing measures taking place, with children sitting over 2 metres from the next person/ child.
- The hall, where the children are currently working has been sectioned up using tape.
- There are also social distancing measures taking place in the playground.
- Children have their temperature taken on entry.
- Children wash their hands on entry.
- Children are given a specific table and cannot change or move seats.
- Children are advised to bring in their own stationary and hand sanitisers as was specified before closure.
- Children wash hands regularly throughout the day.
- Children are currently bringing in a packed lunch.

We are now trying to roll this model out across the school for the specified year groups.

As we have been given numbers by two thirds of families in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, we are able to create a plan that includes most of the above statements, however, if numbers increase, the plan will change.

As it stands:

- Children will be invited to attend school on a one week on, one week off basis.
- Children will be in significantly smaller groups, 10 or less.
- Children will stay at one table inside the building for the whole day.
- The guidance says Early Years and Key Stage 1 do not have to socially distance themselves however due the small amount of parents who have indicated they will be taking the up the offer of a place we should be able to successfully do this along with Year 6 in the classrooms and playground.
- Children will have their lunch at their designated table.
- Some children will have their class teacher, but others will not.

Queries from Survey

Can we have a basin of water on the playground to wash hands? **No. This is extremely unhygienic and puts children in danger by potential cross contamination**

Will school be open during the summer holidays? **No**

What happens if I keep my child at home? **Nothing. Parents must make the decision for their child and family. Attendance monitoring will take place and record your child as working at home. Fines and meetings will not be required.**

I only want my child to come in if they have their teacher. **We cannot guarantee your child will have their teacher, as was clearly stated.**

Why will children not be made to be socially distant? **Older children can mostly follow this instruction. Younger children: this is much more difficult. The government has specified that they do not need to, but we as a school think it is incredibly important to keep both children and staff safe.**

Staff should be made to wear masks. **Masks in school have not been recommended. Some staff may personally choose to wear a mask, but this is not an obligation.**

Staff should sanitise children's bags and shoes on entry. **The Health Secretary has been clear that children will not be sprayed or sanitised on entry into school.**

Children's belongings should not come into contact with any other person if they follow the stipulated rules.

Staff must wear the correct PPE. **PPE is not recommended for staff in schools, unless they have to help a child with special education needs.**

I just want my child to get back to normal school. **School will not be normal. Heavy restrictions will reduce how many of their friends they see, how often they see them and if they see them, they will not be able to play together like they did.**

School routines will also be disrupted with every group in the school beginning at a different time, every group's break and lunch play at a different time, and every group finishing at a different time.

Children will be in school for one week, then home for the next.

Assemblies will not take place, nor any group gatherings.

Can my child meet their new teacher before the summer holiday? **Due to the pandemic, schools have been asked to allow staff to hand in notice at any point therefore we cannot allocate staff. We also cannot cross contaminate groups by changing teachers.**

If I keep my child off, will they be able to do online learning? **Online learning will continue through the google classroom but staff will also be working full time in school. They will set work at the beginning of the day, but will not be able to check in as often as they have been.**

School Vouchers

There have been some enquiries regarding the voucher scheme and whether or not it will continue if school re-opens on the 1st June for those designated year groups and also for those pupils from those classes who do not return. We are waiting on advice with regards to this.

Support

If anyone needs our help and support during this time, do not hesitate to contact us. We are available to do what we can to support our children and families. If you need any support, please email parent support and we will endeavour to do what we can.

If you are aware of any of our families who you think may be in difficulties or struggling, please bring it to our attention. We will treat it in the strictest of confidence and will do our best to help.

Our staff have worked exceptionally hard over the last eight weeks and one thing that has helped enormously is the support you have shown them and all the lovely messages and emails they have received from you. Thank you very much for this, it has made a huge difference and is really appreciated. As we move into the next phase please continue to be patient with us. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and those who have been affected by COVID 19.

We Pray

For the health workers tending the seriously ill

for the scientists working on a vaccination

for the researchers analysing data and identifying trends

for the media outlets working to communicate reality

for the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers

for the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning

for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities

for the recognition that isolation doesn't need to mean loneliness
for the notes through letterboxes offering help and support
for the internet and telephones and technology that connects
for the awakened appreciation of what is truly important

Thanks be to God.

We are all in uncharted territory but I hope you know we will always do our very best for the children in our care. Take care and I hope you and your families continue to keep well.

Have a good weekend

Yours Sincerely

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