



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health? I am writing regarding the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday, which outlined his conditional plan for the phased re-opening of schools. Schools are to increase the number of pupils they have in school by welcoming back Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils on June 1st 2020 with an intention to extend this to all other year groups later in the month. We will of course continue our existing provision for children of keyworkers.

As both a parent and a Headteacher, I have so many questions – like you, I am sure. I, along with the rest of the Senior Leadership Team, will absolutely respect any decisions you make regarding your children coming to school. As was the case just before school closure, please be assured that there will be no penalties for non-attendance during this time.

We will do our absolute utmost to keep everyone safe.

As a starting point, guidance documents from the Government and DfE suggests the following:

- Where settings can keep children in small groups two metres away from each other, they should do so;
- Split children into groups of up to and no more than 15;
- Stagger the start and end of the school day;
- The normal full curriculum will not apply;
- Keep children in groups and do not allow them to mix with other groups;
- Stagger lunch and playtimes;
- There will be increased cleaning;
- Frequent handwashing with soap and water and good hygiene practice;
- Classroom resources and equipment will have to be significantly reduced;
- Only one parent should escort, drop off and collect with gatherings at school forbidden;
- No visitors can enter the building if they show symptoms;
- Settings must use outside space as much as possible and ventilate classrooms;
- Children and staff who have been classed as extremely clinically vulnerable (with medical evidence) should shield and stay at home;
- If a child or staff member who lives with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, unless stringent social distancing instructions can be adhered to, individuals are not expected to attend;
- All vulnerable children: those with an EHCP or social worker should attend school;
- If a child or staff member shows symptoms, they will be sent home and the rest of the group will be notified;

- PPE will not be worn unless intimate care (toilet needs) and first aid is being provided. In these circumstances, staff will wear face masks, aprons and gloves;
- One teacher should be allocated to a group. Please note that due to staff availability, this may not be your child's normal teacher. If there are teacher shortages, a Teaching Assistant will be deployed to take groups

It is an awesome privilege to be a Headteacher and I, and all the staff at Our Lady's, are immensely proud of our school community and the way in which we have all worked together to continue to inspire and foster a love of learning and endeavour for our children. Naturally, we cannot wait to have the children back in our school building – we are missing them terribly! However, the safety and wellbeing of the whole school community is of paramount importance and remains our primary concern.

As a community, I have no doubt that we will all continue to support one another as we all have difficult decisions to make.

Once we have a definite and detailed plan, we will of course publish this to you all. As I am sure you appreciate, the task we have been given is enormous and unprecedented. We want to get this right for everybody.

As always, look after each other and please keep safe.

Kindest Regards,

Richard Curry

