

23 May 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for all of your lovely messages and praise for the staff and school during this difficult time. It is very much appreciated by everyone. We are all desperate for the children to return to school. We are so sorry they are missing out on all of the fun and excitement of summer term. We will just have to make next year extra special.

Consultation to join Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust

The consultation ends on 1 June 2020. If you would like to respond to the consultation you can send responses to admin@stcharles.newcatsle.sch.uk.

Reception and Nursery places September 2020

We now have our list of new children joining our school. We will be contacting families after the half term and will start our virtual transition plans. This is not how we like to welcome new families, but Mrs Bickle (Early Years Leader) and the rest of the team will do their very best to ensure that new children are welcomed into the St Charles family as smoothly as possible.

Well-being on Class Dojo

Mrs Damti is uploading daily prompts to support well-being on the ClassDojo app. We are all aware that the longer this situation continues we all need to look after our children that little bit more. You may even find a staff Tik Tok or two on there!

Playground

We hope to upgrade some of the playground and resurface some areas this summer. To create a larger area for active play, we will be replacing the wooden sleepers that are now rotten beyond repair causing a health and safety risk and the area will be tarmacked. We hope to relocate the seating area within the Key Stage 2 playground so it can still be used as a stage or seating area by the children. We hope the children in the new academic year will help to plan how we use this new space.

Replacement Parent Consultation Meetings

We will be contacting all families and offering a 10-minute telephone conversation to talk about your child's progress this year and to discuss your child's end of year report which will be issued in the coming weeks. Pupils this year across Newcastle will be reported to be 'on track for working towards', 'on track for expected' and where possible 'on track for greater depth'.

Please remember you can contact any of the staff at any time via Class Dojo or via the school office or emails to admin@stcharles.newcastle.sch.uk. We are always happy to speak to you or your child to see how they are getting on.

Key Worker Children: start times from 2 June 2020

The key worker children in school have now been placed into teams with allocated staff. At the moment we have 4 key worker teams and they will be using 4 classrooms in the school. Each team needs to keep a social distance from the other teams.

To help with this, each team will have a staggered start and end time of their school day. Siblings will be in the same team.

You will be informed of your child's start and end time of the school day on 1 June when we return.

On Monday 1 June, all key worker children will start at 9am until 3.15pm.

Please ensure that the children remain 2 meters apart and keep social distance within the carpark when dropping off. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

The 4 key worker groups will have the following start and end times from 2 June 2020. The group your child is allocated a place in will be confirmed on 1 June.

Group 1	Start school 8.45am - end 2.45pm
Group 2	Start school 8.55am - end 2.55pm
Group 3	Start school 9.05am - end 3.05pm
Group 4	Start school 9.15am - end 3.15pm

If you are a key worker and require a place for your child from 15 June - 29 June 2020 please inform the school office by Wednesday 3 June at 12 noon via email of your requirements (admin@stcharles.newcatsle.sch.uk).

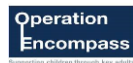
We now need to know numbers in advance as this impacts on our wider opening plans. Places now need to be allocated and due to the high numbers we need parents to stick to the agreed pattern of child care.

If you are unsure of your shift pattern, please ask for the maximum days you require as this will ensure accurate planning. Thank you for your co-operation.

Wider opening

Thank you for your patience while we carry out our planning and risk assessments to enable us to open to more pupils. Governors will need to approve our plans and following their approval we will be in a position to consult with all of our families. We know it will be very strange for pupils but we will try and make it as normal as possible for them whilst still adhering to the guidance. We always want our children to be happy and feel safe in school as well as having lots of fun.

The local authority has issued a letter to parents and in this letter it states that some schools may be in a position to accept more pupils from 8 June. Unfortunately, at this moment we will not be in a position to accept more pupils on top of our key worker children on this date. However, we are aiming to allow more pupils to come into school as soon as possible after this date.



We understand from the school survey that the current uncertainties may be causing some anxiety and that many of you may not wish for your child to return at this time. Some may be shielding, deemed as vulnerable or feel that their child is safer at home. In the following months, you will be best placed to make this decision. The government have advised that there will be no legal or monitoring processes for attendance. We will support every family with whatever decision they make for their child/ren.

Thank you

Thank you to all of the staff for their hard work over the last half term. The teaching and support team have continued to do the best for our pupils. They have been contacting families via class dojo and have been in regular contact with many families as well as providing childcare for key worker children. They have tried to contact all families to see how your children are getting on. If they have not been successful when contacting you so far, please let the school office know a good time to contact you or your child.

Teresa and Dawn in the kitchen have continued to provide meals for the key worker children and Peter and the cleaning team have been deep cleaning all areas of the school. Mrs Ambrose and Mrs Phillips have been a great support to all staff and families helping with communication and even helping the teachers with delivering work to some of our children.

I hope you all have a wonderful break with your families.

I will share the finalised plan with you for consultation in the coming weeks.

God bless you all.

Nealings

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