

The Bishops' C of E Learning Academy

Faith to Belong, Believe, Aspire and Achieve

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Date

Friday 29th May 2020

Update on Partial Reopening of our School

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will undoubtedly have heard the Prime Minister's statement last night in which he set out his assessment that each of the five tests are being met, but that we must proceed with great caution. As such, he confirmed that from Monday (1st June) schools can begin to open more widely.

Our Kernow Learning Trust board met this morning to make the final decisions about the plans to open The Bishops' C of E Learning Academy more widely. The Trust central team explained how we have been working to undertake the full risk mitigation approach recommended, taking into account the most recent government guidance, scientific evidence and staff / parent views. The trustees agreed that we have acted with reasonable care.

After a full discussion it was agreed that **The Bishops' and all Kernow Learning Schools should move more cautiously than previously planned.**

Our school will be open (re-open) from 1st June to offer places to key worker and vulnerable pupils from all year groups but will **not extend to the wider opening of Nursery, Reception or Year 1 year groups until at least the 15th June.** (This is in line with the national decision to open secondary schools and is when we will have further robust data to analyse against our risk mitigation strategy.)

Over the next two weeks The Bishops' will:

- Proceed with training for all staff as planned

- Be open for the children of Key Workers all year groups
- Be open for vulnerable children all year groups
- Not expand provision for Nursery/ Reception / Year 1 children
- Continue with our home learning and regular contact for all year groups
- Treat these two weeks as a transition period where all staff are fully trained in the new arrangements in their own school setting with smaller pupil numbers
- Continue to be robust in our risk assessments and application of rules on the ground to ensure maximum safety for school children and staff
- Continue to take note of the latest scientific advice
- Continue to monitor the local conditions including the R value for our school area
- See how the new 'Test and Trace' system is working in our local area

The Department for Education confirmed that 1st June was an 'aspiration' and therefore the responsibility for taking the decision about when it is safe to increase pupil numbers rests with Trust boards. At The Bishops' we believe that it is important that we all stand together to ensure that everyone in our schools and communities is safe.

We appreciate that the decision to proceed with more caution and extend our phased opening timeline may cause difficulties for some families, however, we know that you will agree that the safety of our pupils, families and staff has to be at the forefront of our thinking.

Thank you for your continued support.

*If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. **Matthew 17:20.***

Yours sincerely



Adam Richards

Headteacher