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Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## PLANS TO RE-OPEN SCHOOL TO SOME CHILDREN

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience in allowing us to plan properly for the safe return of some children to school. We can now outline measures being put in place to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19, so that you can then decide what is right for your children and family, with the assurance that there will be no fine or other action taken should you decide that your child is not yet returning to school.

The reopening of St Vincent's Catholic Primary School to wider groups of children is planned in line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Local Authority. This plan is subject to confirmation that the conditions set out by the Government have been met, which we anticipate will happen on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, and following this remains subject to change dependant on ongoing review of circumstances / Government and Local Authority updates.

Below is an outline of the proposed timings for each group of children in order to allow each group to be re-integrated and settled before further groups return:

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June: Year 1 children return to school
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June: Reception children return to school
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Year 6 children return to school
- All children of key workers or those who are vulnerable will continue to be able to access provision based on the need of each individual, as is currently the case. Please notify the school office using [office@stvincentsprimary.org](mailto:office@stvincentsprimary.org) to let us know your needs for the following week by midday each Friday. *However, we would ask that you let us know what provision is needed for week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May*** so that we can plan this alongside wider opening.

The Government ambition is to welcome back children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 before the end of term, however this will be dependent on space and staffing within school. It is highly unlikely, with current restrictions and social distancing measures in place that we will have the staff and space to allow this to happen, however we will need to wait for further guidance from the DfE in relation to this.

This return to school is planned to include significant changes to the organisation of the day, school building and curriculum - this is not back to "business as usual". Classrooms and the learning taking place will look and feel very different for the time being, and we will need to work together to prepare the children for this when they return. Please read the guidance which has now been published on the school website by following the link below to find out more detailed information about the necessary changes that will be made to staffing, class groupings, home-school communication, drop off and pick up times and arrangements, uniform and other aspects of school life that you and your child will need to be aware of:

[https://www.stvincentsprimary.org/website/gradual\\_re-opening\\_to\\_wider\\_groups\\_of\\_children/484864](https://www.stvincentsprimary.org/website/gradual_re-opening_to_wider_groups_of_children/484864)



Please discuss this with your child, as they need to be well prepared for returning to school so that they understand what school will be like and what the expectations are.

Parents and Carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will receive a link to a further survey, asking for a Yes / No response about whether you intend for your child to return to school following the schedule outlined above. If you decide that your child is not returning at this time, but then decide at a later time that they can return, you must give us notice of this decision so that we can make necessary plans for a further increase in number of children, and we ask that you understand that this may not happen immediately.

Thank you as always for your support and understanding in what is a complex situation and please be assured that our first priority in any decision to re-open will be the safety of children and staff.

Take care, and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Vernon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr Dominic Vernon

Head Teacher