

## ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Leanne M Harris B.A. (Hons)*  
Headteacher

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you to share a phased re-opening at St Anne's as of 1st June.

It is important for me to share with you in a transparent way, the rationale and reasoning that all these decisions are rooted in.

As per my last letter, over the course of the past month around 40 pieces of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) have been published for schools. These have altered plans at every stage, to ensure that paramount at all times, is the safety and well-being of the children and staff.

A rigorous risk assessment has been carried out at school, rooms re-arranged, maps created and cleaning equipment purchased. The parents of EYFS, year one and year six have all been contacted so that we can gauge family feelings around a partial re-opening. A form was emailed today for parents to indicate if they feel they come under the category of critical worker or the aforementioned year groups. This form can also be obtained on the school website under the information section, under Covid-19. **This is purely to ascertain provisional numbers for planning, and not a guarantee of a place unfortunately.**

### **Provision for Key workers children and vulnerable groups**

At the start of the lockdown, we opened for some who may have needed additional support and children of key workers. This group continues to be the priority group in mapping out this new phase and the first set of pupils we must cater for, as they could well become a much larger group with latest government guidance.

After careful consideration, consultation and planning, the timetable for a phased re-opening will be as follows:

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**- Children of critical workers as per government guidance with a completed form. Once we have received your form, we will be in touch to confirm a place for your child by the end of **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. We will at this point, detail where your child will be working.

It is of paramount importance that this phased return is based on the guidelines set out by the government. Starting carefully, will enable the school to manage the return for the children in the safest



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way possible as well as ensuring that I have the capacity to staff the numbers of children. If you were not aware, everyone will need to be allocated a 'bubble' and the pupil numbers should not exceed 15.

At this point, it is both unmanageable and a potential risk to open up to any pupils in EYFS, year one and year six at the same time. I will be reviewing the situation on a daily basis and be writing to you again on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** with further details. This will give the senior leadership team, time to identify capacity and safety. We are duly aware of transition and 'closure' for pupils in year six. We hope to phase them back but I hope you can appreciate that this will be under continued review as to when this will happen. The government guidance states that after the critical workers, the youngest members of the school should be next to be phased back. Again, I will be in touch with you about when I feel this is safe to do so.

### **Additional Details**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> June, school will close on a Friday afternoon at 12 pm to ensure staff have the time to continue preparing home learning and for school to be thoroughly deep cleaned.

I have created a question and answer booklet with as much information that I think you might need. This can be found on the school website, alongside any other useful information, under the information section, Covid-19.

### **Bubbles**

The complexities of planning for a phased re-opening have been dependent on numerous factors such as striving for safety, social distancing, staffing arrangements and following the government guidance around social 'bubbles'.

The children and staff will be organised into 'bubbles' and they will not leave that group. That way, if anyone falls ill, it is within that group only. This is further complicated for staffing and always having a group of staff who can be called upon if a member of the team is ill.

It is with some sadness that I write this letter as we had hoped to be open for more year groups but the decision is based on the safety of all the St Anne's community. The plan will be reviewed daily. I hope you feel assured that we have put in place as many measures as possible so that this phased return is as safe as possible.

I continue to thank you all for your patience and understanding at the difficult time and feel blessed to be part of the St. Anne's community.

God Bless



Mrs H Murphy

Acting Headteacher



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