

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parent(s), Carer(s),

Over the last seven weeks we have had between 30 and 40 children at school to ensure that the children of keyworkers have been provided for. This service has also been available to key worker families and vulnerable children during bank holidays and Easter holidays and included the provision of Breakfast Club and After School Care when required.

Since school closed, Corpus Christi School has had the highest attendance at school in Lambeth and this has remained constant at around 10% of the whole school population. Over this period we have relied upon the hard work of school staff and the co-operation and understanding of parents whenever we have needed to make adjustments to the service provided. This Covid 19 crisis has meant that all of us - teachers, support staff and parents have been working in new situations and in different ways for the benefit of all our children. Everyone has made an immeasurable difference to children's schooling in these challenging times whether that has been at school or at home. The support from parents and of teachers in these times continues to be greatly appreciated.

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, announced on the 29<sup>th</sup> April that schools would return in a phased manner across England. This was confirmed in a speech by Boris Johnson on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May who indicated government would like to see Reception and Year 1 pupils being among the first to return to school, alongside Year 6. Further details of this were published yesterday evening on the DFE website. The Education Secretary said that, "This marks the first step towards having all young people back where they belong – in nurseries, schools and colleges." Therefore, ministers want the youngest children and those preparing to transition to secondary school in September to have the maximum contact with their teachers from the beginning of June, if public health conditions continue to improve.

As a school we welcome this opportunity to take some small, tentative steps towards our whole school community returning but obviously, the children's safety and the safety of all our staff and families is of paramount importance. Over the coming days we will work closely with other Headteachers, the Local Authority, Governors and the Education Commission to put in place a workable plan towards this end. How this will look at Corpus Christi will depend very much on the availability of staff and the logistics of how government guidelines, including social distancing can be implemented safely, whilst minimising risks to staff and children.

We will be contacting you in the coming days to understand what your response might be to an invitation for your child to return to school considering that parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels.

We continue to keep you and your family in our prayers and thank you for your continued support and communication.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J. Connery  
Co-Headteacher

Mr R. Coyle  
Co-Headteacher