

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

WIDER OPENING FOR CHILDREN IN NURSERY, RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 6

Parents in these year groups who answered **NO TO RETURNING** in survey

As you are already aware, as part of the wider school opening in England, we will be opening our school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to Nursery, Reception (alternate weeks for each Reception Class), Year 1 and Year 6 children. Last week we sent out a survey and parents were asked to make a decision as to whether they wanted their child to return to school. *You are receiving this letter as you confirmed your intention **NOT** to send your child back to school* and your individual decision is of course respected.

The majority of our parents in each of these Years groups have decided to send their children back to school. These year groups are in addition to the large number of Key Worker children who have been accessing school daily since the lockdown and school closure in March, and I myself am looking forward to having more children back in school. As we now have a large number of children returning to school, we have put all the children returning into smaller Bubble groups as most classrooms can only fit 9 -11 children comfortably within the 2m distancing rules. With all the staff in school now allocated, these Bubble groups will remain until guidance changes.

We have worked hard over the last two weeks preparing school for a safe opening in line with all the guidance provided by the DfE, Health & Safety, Public Health and Blackpool Authority with further scrutiny from the various teaching and support staff unions. Our Governing Body has been involved in approving the Risk Assessment (s) and opening action plan, which were then sent off for approval by the local authority. As these have now been officially approved and following an on-site visit by H&S to our school today, we are now in a position to welcome our children back to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

As we have now allocated all our staff to these smaller Bubbles (14 in total), we have very little capacity now to increase our numbers further. The issue is more to do with room size and space rather than staffing ratios. For this reason, we have decided to alternate our reception classes returning (Mrs Rooney's Bubble Group in one week followed by Mrs Mahoney's Bubble Group the following week etc.) as this arrangement will allow for additional reception children to return should parents change their mind. I do feel that any return to school for our reception children before the summer holidays will support their transition back to school in familiar surroundings ahead of September, when they will be entering Year 1 in the main building.

In terms of Year 1 and Year 6, with only two free classrooms left in school, there is some capacity to increase these year group Bubbles again should parents change their mind. There are a few places left within the already existing Bubbles in these year groups and **these can be filled up on a first come-first served basis** if you contact the school office via email in the first instance, as the office is closed until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

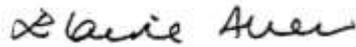
Should numbers exceed these spare places, we will have to create new Bubbles and this will take longer to organise.



***Please be aware therefore, that should you change your mind and decide you would like your child to attend school, this will require an individual conversation and ultimately agreement with school, not by simply just turning up at school.*** Should this happen, we will have to turn children and parents away as the other issue is that every Bubble has a staggered start and end time, entering and leaving school by different entrances, to ensure adequate social distancing and ultimately safety, for all our parents and children.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Elaine Allen

Headteacher



Glastonbury Ave, Blackpool, Lancashire FY1 6RD  
Tel: 01253 311248  
Email: [admin@st-john-vianney.blackpool.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-john-vianney.blackpool.sch.uk)

