



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

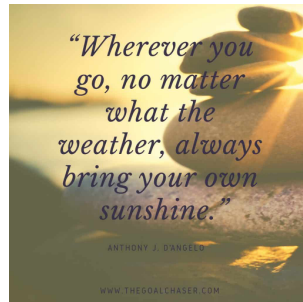
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Archdiocese of  
Birmingham

14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents



As promised, I am now in a position to move forward with the latest Government announcement on Sunday confirming the plan to open schools on June 1st to Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nurseries. We are continually receiving further guidance and updates on how, as schools, we will manage this and carry our plans through operationally so please do look out for any updates via the website, text or email. It is so important to me that we keep you as up to date as possible with a sense of clarity and careful thought.

It is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to welcome these year groups back in the safest way, if it remains safe for our school to do so, in the coming weeks. Today there will be a link to a questionnaire sent via text message to the parents of pupils in **Year 6, Year 1 and Reception. Pre School** will be sent via Tapestry. This **MUST BE COMPLETED by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**. It is essential that all questions are answered, and clear names are given, thank you in advance.

The decision on whether your child returns to school is yours. I understand that many of you will be anxious and some of you, who fall into the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' category, may decide to keep your child at home. You are not legally required to send your child back to school at this time.

There is a lot of guidance on the Government's websites to help you make this decision, we will keep you informed as we move forward with our plans but please don't hesitate to email any concerns that you have and I will do my very best to answer them.

Please understand though, that your children will be returning to a school that will be very different to the one they left. At this point we are reviewing the risks and it may not be possible to welcome all back as detailed by the Government. We will not be having classes bigger than 15 pupils therefore it is likely that we will be splitting classes and operating a rota system. The decisions we make will be made clear to you during the coming weeks; we need to be sure that we can sustain any plan we have in place for the sake of staff, pupils and yourselves. We will be staggering lunchtimes and playtimes and many of the wide range of resources that enhance the children's experience will not be available due to health and safety guidelines. There will be stringent measures on movement around the school which we will educate the children in.





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All staff and our Nurture Teams will, of course, ensure that this is managed with the children's emotional well-being at the forefront. It is vital that all parents in Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Pre School complete the questionnaire, whether you take up the offer of a return to school or not; it is only when we have clear definitive numbers that we can plan in detail. If you do not complete the questionnaire, we will assume that your child will not be returning to school on June 1st.

Online home learning will continue for all Year groups even those Year groups in school. This will form the basis of the curriculum for all children at this time and will be taught to those in school too.

School will remain open for the children of key workers and children who are in vulnerable groups who are currently attending school. We will continue to support key worker children. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further Government guidance. We do have to abide by the information that we are given and I thank you for your understanding.

As always my heartfelt thanks goes out to you for all of your hard work and support at this most surreal time in history.

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury

HEADTEACHER

