

The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School

www.blessedsacrament.lancs.sch.uk

01772 792572

Headteacher: Miss K J Hannah BA(QTS)



21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Letter about the plans to reopen school to more children

I wanted to write to keep you up to date with how the school is proceeding following the announcement from the Government to partially open.

The school has actually never been shut! We are taking all of the key worker children and are still fortunate to have enough staff to cover this. We will continue to be open for key worker children during half term. I am so grateful to our staff for volunteering to work their holidays with no payment to enable us to continue to support our families during this very difficult time.

As I am sure you are aware, the UK Government has released new guidance around the country's Coronavirus recovery strategy. Central to the Government's plans for recovery is the expansion of the number of pupils returning to primary school settings. The latest guidance for parents can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>.

We are currently undertaking a risk assessment using the DFE guidance. It is apparent that social distancing is a great challenge in our school building where the classrooms are smaller than average and the corridors are quite narrow. I hope you agree with me that is so important that we keep our children safe and well.

The main headline to be taken from the latest guidance is undoubtedly the return to school of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 'from the week commencing 1 June 2020 at the earliest'. The Government have made it clear that this will only happen on the proviso that the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programs set out in the Government Road-map are operating effectively. For this reason it is important that you understand that any plans outlined in this letter are subject to change depending on the latest information and guidance that we receive from the Government. A final decision on the partial re-opening of schools is due to be made on 28/5/2020.

Since the announcement and over the course of the next two weeks, we will be working tirelessly to try and meet the Government's requests. As you can imagine when planning and organising the possible return of 4 year groups plus the Key Workers' children (in the first instance), there will be an almost endless list of steps to consider. Some of the considerations recommended by the Government include:

- organising small class groups
- organising classrooms to maintain space between seats and desks
- staggered break times (including lunch)
- drop-off and collection times
- organising pick-up protocols that minimise adult to adult contact

Along with our Governing Body, we have come to the decision that the way forward for us is to open to the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on a part-time rota basis. Please be assured that as your child is not in one of these year groups, work will continue to be set as it has been – through the website and home-learning packs. FSM vouchers will also continue to be provided. Class teachers will be contacting you over the coming weeks to arrange a suitable way to say 'goodbye' to your child before they move up to their next class in September.

All arrangements will be reviewed regularly; please keep checking the website for further details.

Yours sincerely

Miss K J Hannah
Headteacher