



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)



Tuesday 12th May 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian / Carer,

Possible re-opening of School from 1st June – Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6

I am sure you have all heard the news by now that the Government proposes to re-open schools from 1st June for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 if it is deemed safe to do so by the scientific evidence.

Their plans and documentation were released last night and school leaders, local Authorities and Unions are currently looking over that information to see what it will mean for them and I am no different. I have also submitted a number of questions to the DfE and to my links in the LA and at the Diocese that I require clarity on, before I can move forward with planning for the return of our wonderful children that we have missed so much.

My plan, at the moment, is to re-open in the safest way possible if we are required to do so on 1st June. I am considering the safety of the children and staff of the school as well as for parents during drop off and pick up times. It has to be said that it would be near on impossible to implement social distancing in schools especially for nursery and reception in particular so our steps to safeguard pupils and staff must be considered carefully in how we can minimise the risk for all involved. As such, we are very much at the beginning of this journey but I will make sure I share with you our plans once they have been finalised and agreed with the Governors and the LA.

The guidance does state that families will not be penalised for not sending their children in which is good news – so whether you do or do not send your child – it will be parental choice and as a school, we will support your decision as best we can for as long as we can. It may also not be appropriate for your child to be in school e.g. they have a letter from the GP and should be shielding – this too needs to be taken into account; every family situation is unique and you need to make decisions based on what you know about your family. I also strongly believe that at this point it would be unfair of me to ask parents to make a decision on whether they will or will not be sending their child in. We have yet to see what the picture will be like on 1st June – will there be very few cases, will there be more, will the science have proven or disproven that it is safe to return to school? We just don't know. So for the moment, I ask each of you to carry on with your home education, or with having some precious family time and we will cross the bridge of reopening schools when we come to it.

As I said before, I will ensure that we share the plan of action and what we have in place to safeguard your child once it has been confirmed and approved and then from that you can make your decision as to whether your child will attend or not.

For the moment, I wish each of my families good health and happiness over the coming weeks and months. I hope you enjoyed watching our video on the website and we look forward to seeing you soon,

Miss Hayes
Headteacher

'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.' Ofsted 2017

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