



*In the Light of Jesus
we Learn to Shine*

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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St. Alban

Catholic Schools' Partnership

Dear Parents and Carers,

22 May 2020

School Proposals for Phased Re-opening of Schools

As you are aware, if the 5 key tests set by the Government are met and the transition rates of COVID 19 are reduced, they may move to step two of their recovery plan, which could include the phased re-opening of primary schools for the education of children in Reception (EYFS), Year 1 and Year 6. The 01 June is the earliest date that schools have been asked to plan towards, however it is the responsibility of the school and the Governing Body to complete a series of risk assessments to ensure that the school will only open when it is as safe as possible to do so. Individual schools and Governing Bodies can decide how they move forward and therefore it could look different in different schools; as there is no set formula. It is also important to highlight that we cannot guarantee the absolute safety of any pupil, but we are following all Government guidance and seeking Health & Safety advice as part of our risk assessments and can assure parents and carers that we will put every appropriate measure in place, to keep all staff and pupils as safe as we possibly can.

Pupils who are considered clinically vulnerable and are shielding should **not** attend. Parents of pupils who have a health condition that makes them vulnerable and therefore at a higher risk should seek and follow medical advice. The government has also declared that it will **not** be compulsory for pupils to attend, but would encourage parents to send in pupils in the identified year groups. Parents and Carers **will not** face fines or other sanctions if they choose not to send their children back to school.

Since the Government announcement, the school has been working very hard to put a plan in place which supports the safety of pupils and staff during the phased opening. Please find below an outline of the schools' planned proposals. Further information will be sent out the individual Year Groups to support the transition back to school.

Managing the risk and rate of transmission

- Parents will be asked to take their child's temperature each morning before bringing them to school. Parents should not bring their child to school if they or anyone in their household has any symptoms of Coronavirus or feels unwell.
- Schools have been asked to reduce contact between pupils and staff as far as possible, by children being grouped into smaller classes and keeping that group away from any other group. Therefore, we have decided that when pupils return they will be placed in 'bubbles' of between 10-15 pupils depending upon their age.
- The 'bubble' will remain the same group of pupils on the days they attend school.
- We will allocate the same adults to the 'bubble' as far as possible. This is to limit contact between adults and pupils outside of the bubble. This **may not** be their current teacher or teaching assistant.
- These bubbles will use the same classroom on the days they attend and will not mix with other 'bubbles' in the school throughout the school day. This **may not** be their current classroom.
- All 'bubbles' within the school will have staggered lunch and break times. It has been suggested that the pupils remain in their learning space for lunch however as a school we have decided that at times the bubble will be looked after by an identified 'midday supervisor' for a short period of time to enable staff to have a break.
- Seating and learning areas will be planned within the classroom which adheres to the 2m social distancing government ruling. Older pupils will be allocated their own table which they will use throughout their time at school. Younger pupils will be encouraged to work at work stations where possible.
- There will be frequent cleaning of surfaces that pupils touch throughout the school day, this includes desks, toilets, door handles and toys.
- Additional hand sanitisers and sinks will be available for the children to use and will be monitored by staff.
- There will be a limited sharing of resources particularly among the older pupils. This includes stationery and equipment. Where resources are shared between bubbles these will be cleaned thoroughly before exchanging.
- Outdoor equipment will not be used unless it is appropriately cleaned between groups. Wherever possible equipment or toys which are not required will be removed and stored away.
- Pupils will not be allowed to bring in resources from home and we will not send resources home with them.
- The school will continue to ensure frequent and quality hand washing. Posters will be displayed throughout the school site and staff will monitor this.
- Classrooms and learning spaces will be ventilated as much as possible throughout the school day whilst ensuring the school remains compliant to fire regulations.

- Outdoor space will be used as much as possible for exercise, breaks and learning.
- PPE will be worn by medical staff and additional staff where necessary, such as personal care.

Curriculum

- Schools have also been asked to continue to support pupils remaining at home with their home learning.
- In school, the curriculum will consider pupils' mental health and wellbeing and support pupils as they return so they are ready to learn.
- Older pupils will have the opportunity to work on transition units whilst younger pupils will focus on basic skills such as self-care, speaking and listening, reading and number. Exercise and physical activities which adhere to the social distancing rules will also be planned for all pupils.
- Where possible, outdoor learning will be planned for, however these will only take place in individual 'bubbles.'

School day organisation

- The school will not be a 'normal' school as we have known it previously. There will be staggered start and end times for each Year Group if all pupils in the identified year groups have returned. More information regarding this will be sent out to parents as necessary.
- Each Year Group will have a specific entrance that they will be required to use and parents must adhere to the social distancing rules.
- Where possible, the school will adopt a one-way system to limit contact between pupils moving around the school, although movement will be limited.
- Parents will have limited contact with staff during drop off and pick up and should there be any concerns parents will be encouraged to contact a member of staff through the school office and a member of staff will respond to them ASAP.
- Parents will not be able to gather on the playground during these times and will be encouraged to queue whilst socially distancing.
- Parents will not be able to enter the school building during these times, drop off and collection will be prompt to limit contact between adults.
- If there are siblings in more than one of the identified year groups, the same start and end times will be planned to prevent parents 'waiting' on the playground.
- Schools will not have any whole school gatherings. Assemblies, hymn practices or sporting events will not take place.
- Schools will provide meals for all children in school and these should be free of charge where pupils meet the free school meal eligibility criteria.

School Uniform

- Pupils attending school will not be required to wear school uniform when they attend. Clothes worn must be washed at the end of the day to limit the spread of the virus between home and school.
- Sensible clothing and footwear should be worn.

Key Workers

- The school remains open for the pupils of Key Workers. These pupils will also be placed in 'bubbles' and the same procedures listed above will be applied.
- Pupils will be required to complete learning activities in their classroom.
- Due to the likely increasing numbers of Key Worker pupils, due to the opening of schools, the school may have to prioritise places according to the number of staff required.

Once again, we continue to appreciate your support and prayers at this time. We would also ask for your continued patience as we navigate a safe opening for the health and safety of every member of our school community. We do appreciate some of the plans outlined may have implications for you as a family and more importantly as an employee. Employers have been asked by the Government to show a level of flexibility to working parents during this time.

Please be assured that we are working hard to ensure we can welcome back as many pupils as is possibly safe to do so, before the end of the summer.

We will continue to keep you all in our prayers as we navigate the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely

M Murphy

Mrs M Murphy

Head teacher

*Diocese of Northampton in partnership with
Luton Borough Council*

