



*In the Light of Jesus  
we Learn to Shine*

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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*St. Alban*

*Catholic Schools' Partnership*

15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Planned reopening of schools to some year groups from 01 June 2020**

I trust that this letter finds you all safe and well and you are finding our weekly newsletters informative.

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday, schools have been asked to begin to prepare for the possibility of a phased return of some children to school from 01 June, at the earliest. The next phase in the plan is for **nursery, reception (Foundation Stage), Year 1 and Year 6** pupils to return to school, **if** the government thinks it is safe at that time.

The government has made it clear that these are **the only year groups** it plans to bring back to school at this time, however their ambition is to bring back all primary aged children for at least some time before the summer holidays, again, **as long as it is safe to do so**.

We all know that it is a very unsettling time for everybody, but please be assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure it is as safe as it can be for the school to reopen to more children in the coming weeks. We continue to work closely with the DfE, the local authority, unions and partnership schools to ensure safety, consistency and fairness for all our children and families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience in bearing with us, as we take the time to process and action the government's latest announcement. As I have said previously these are unprecedented times and we are being asked to do something that has never been done before and for which there is no blueprint.

Our plans will include key changes such as:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering pick-up and drop-off times and breaks and lunchtimes.
- Changes to timetables
- Increased cleaning and hygiene routines

We are working really hard to co-ordinate and adapt our approach, as we cautiously come out of lockdown but please do not expect that it will be a 'normal' school, if we are able to return from 01 June. Our priority is to set up plans and timetables in order to accommodate everyone safely in much smaller classes, continue supporting key worker provision and ensure that we can still expand to bring in more year groups in the near future.

The government is strongly encouraging parents of children in the year groups identified (EYFS, Yr1 and Y6) to send their children into school. Having children back into school prior to the summer break will support children's mental well-being, social skills and academic progress

enormously. However, the government has made it clear that there will not be penalties for any parents who choose not to send their children into school at this time.

In the meantime, school remains open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical key workers. We appreciate and understand that some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not currently in a position to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

We appreciate your continued support and well wishes during this time and thank you for encouraging your child with home learning and creative activities. We hope that you have enjoyed the opportunity to share what your child has been learning with their class teachers and strongly encourage you to make contact with them if you have not already done so.

I will be in touch with you again shortly to update you and to provide more detailed information about what returning to school will 'look' like. I will also keep you updated when we know more about reopening to other year groups. I understand that you will probably have many unanswered questions, but I would ask that you continue to bear with us, as we simply do not know all the answers yet and I can assure you that as soon as we do we will be in touch.

If your child is in one of the year groups that is not due to return from 01 June, we will continue to provide home learning, and free school meal support, for those eligible, in the usual way.

Once again, thank you for your on-going patience and understanding and we really do appreciate and value your support at such a challenging time for everyone. If you have any urgent questions or queries regarding any other aspect of support, then please do not hesitate to get in touch via [admin@stjosephs.primaryluton.co.uk](mailto:admin@stjosephs.primaryluton.co.uk).

Stay safe and well.

Kind regards,

*M Murphy*

Mrs M Murphy  
Head teacher

