

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

On Monday, we said goodbye to our Year 6 children in what was a lovely celebration. The weather kept us on our toes right up to the last minute but thankfully held up. I must say what a great atmosphere it was. The Year 6 staff, supported by our wider school team, did an amazing job in preparing for the day. Although we did not get to see the Presentation, I know this will be sent out to you all to enjoy with your families. The service was just beautiful, and our Year 6 children, who were brilliant, will remember Fr Phil's words of love and encouragement as they venture into their new schools. Thanks to all our families who were able to attend and for adhering to the safety measure put in place. I just wish I could have had you all attend.

Between Tuesday and Thursday, many of our children in F2 to Year 5 attended a session in school. It has been a joy to see their familiar faces and we look forward to having them back in September. Thank you for supporting us with this.

So now to September. You will be aware that the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of the upcoming autumn term. The basis of their decision is that:

- The prevalence of coronavirus decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place
- More clarity about the measures that need to be in place to create safe environments in schools
- Time out of school being detrimental to children's development
- The low risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus

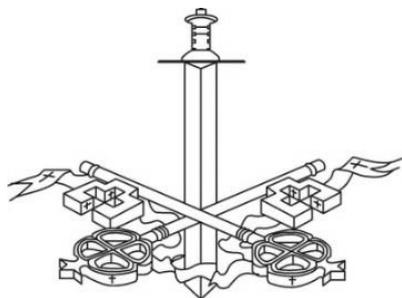
This means we are planning to open to all of our pupils this autumn and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** to Ss. Peter and Paul. I am mindful of the continuing concerns many of us have. This is such an unusual experience for us all. We wanted to get in touch to explain what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all of our parents and carers. We will do our utmost best for our pupils and staff and will continue to respond to and make any necessary adaptations along the way.

### **Safety measures for hygiene and social distancing**

We are working hard to ensure the school continues to be a safe, enjoyable environment and with my Senior Leadership Team, Staff and Governors, I have been devising our plans for this return. As a starting point, I have revisited and updated our [risk assessments](#), considering the additional risks and control measures needed, to enable a full return in September. This is also on the school website in draft. It is important to us all at Ss. Peter and Paul that you fully understand and feel reassured by our plans. Below are the key points, which I am confident, will support the safety for all, help our children to catch up with missed learning and access the excellent curriculum in place for them.

- Children will be organised in consistent class groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix.
- A limited number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the bubble as far as possible
- Staff will maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible from children and from each other although we recognise this is not always going to be possible with younger children. We will continue to encourage children to avoid touching each other, faces, etc.
- Cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual will continue. Additional hand sanitiser stations will be installed on the playgrounds and we will maintain cleaning stations in classrooms and at entry/exit doors of schools
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. All classrooms and communal areas have lidded bins
- Enhanced cleaning rotas so that frequently touched surfaces are cleaned throughout the day. The Site Manager will be on the premises during the day to manage this. We have also purchased a 'fogging machine', which sanitises a whole room within a minute.
- Coats will be placed on the backs of chairs instead of on coat pegs to reduce congestion in the corridors
- Classrooms are arranged so seats are forward facing. This way, learning and wellbeing continue to be well supported and seating arrangements are as risk-free as possible





- Where required, we will wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as visors. However, face coverings will not be worn in school in line with the government guidance
- Pupils will only use the toilets in their phases and staff will supervise visits to toilets. We limit the number of pupils in the toilet at a time. Pupils will access toilets prior to break times however, we will continue to support children who need to make additional visits
- Each class bubble will have a designated area they remain in on the playgrounds; they will access different areas on a rota basis throughout the week.
- Each class will be provided with their own box of PE equipment which will be cleaned after use
- Assemblies & collective worship will be in bubble groups only; assemblies involving several bubbles will be held virtually; each bubble will remain together at lunch & playtimes
- We are not planning any residential trips at the moment and no school trips will be booked for the Autumn Term.
- We will engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

### **Drop off/Pick up**

- There will be staggered start and finish times for the school day and we ask parents/carers to arrive on time to help reduce the number of people on the school site at any one time. Social distancing (2m) outside the school gates will still apply.
- We ask parents/carers that they 'drop and go' leaving the school site as quickly as possible once their child has been dropped off. That way, we avoid congregating at the school gates. Staff will collect and bring the children to and from the gates
- We ask also, in line with government guidance, that parents/carers do not come into the school building unless an appointment has been made or unless it is urgent.
- To avoid unnecessary waiting, families with siblings can bring all children in at the start of the earliest child and staff will take them to their classrooms. At the end of the school day, parents/carers will need to wait for other siblings outside the school gate until they are dismissed.
- We would like to limit any disruptions to learning so pupils will not be able to be collected early except in exceptional circumstance.

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences. If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government is due to pause this guidance on 1 August if there is a continued decline in coronavirus transmission rates. That means they should be able to come back to school in September. However, if you have received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We will be offering remote education to these pupils.

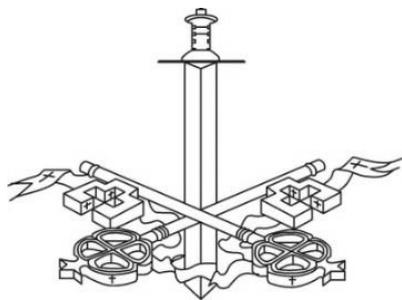
### **Transition**

I am sure you will agree, returning to school will be a positive step for children's education and wellbeing, and will be an important move back towards normal life for many children and families. They will need the chance to reconnect with school, their friends and teachers so on their return, children will spend the first two days with their current class teachers. They will spend the next two days and subsequent weeks in their new classrooms with their teachers for 2020/21.

### **Pastoral support**

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils. Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support when returning to school, such as if they feel anxious about coming back or they are experiencing bereavement. You can get in touch via the school office email or school telephone to do this. Our initial response in welcoming back children will focus on assessing pupil physical and mental well-being, and putting systems in place to address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to COVID-19. Our whole school approach will support children to reconnect with school and their sense of belonging; rebuild friendships, relationships and positive behaviours and our Catholic ethos and values. Our current plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time include:





- giving pupils regular opportunities to discuss how they are feeling, and deliver activities that help to build their resilience and offer strategies to use during difficult moments
- building regular resets into the daily routine, so pupils can proactively calm themselves where needed
- incorporating calming activities into lessons, explaining how they can help work with individual pupils about what works best for them and adapt as appropriate
- School will continue to engage with internal and external support systems:
  - ELSA; KIND club; Socially Speaking intervention; SALT; Fresh Start; Caritas; ADHD Foundation Trust; School counselling; Mental Health Support Team; School Nursing Services

## Curriculum

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we will still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum. On their return to school, teachers will identify and address pupils' gaps in knowledge and skills. They will use systems like questioning, observing pupils in class, talking to pupils to assess understanding, carry out scrutiny of pupils' work to formatively assess their starting points. We will avoid any unnecessary testing. We will modify the curriculum to prioritise teaching time to address significant gaps in knowledge & skills and all formative assessments will be used effectively to inform curriculum planning. In many instances, teachers will take the opportunity to address identified learning gaps by teaching some aspects of the curriculum from the previous year alongside the current year objectives. Knowledge organisers will be used to reinforce key vocabulary, knowledge and skills in subject areas, which will then be assessed.

Our aim for all pupils is to re-establish good progress in the essential areas of phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics. Reading will take priority across the curriculum. In addition to our daily class and small group reading lessons, we will continue to promote reading for pleasure activities including quiet reading and reading to children. Phonics interventions will run daily alongside regular learning following gaps analysis and assessments. In early years, we will focus on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language, personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and physical development. We will assess and address gaps in language, early reading and mathematics for our Foundation 2 children. Our aim will be to ensure the children are secure in their phonic knowledge and extend their vocabulary.

Although we will reduce the curriculum at the start of the year, we aim to return to our normal curriculum by the summer term. We are fully aware however that this may take longer as we will need to review and adapt the curriculum to respond to the needs of the children. We will still teach two topics from history and geography over the year and we will continue to deliver the curriculum for RE; RSE/PSHE; Science and all other foundation subjects.

Staff are preparing a bespoke curriculum for the Autumn Term 1 and they will share this with you.

## Uniform

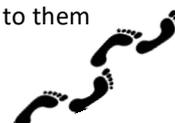
Pupils will wear their usual school uniform as there is no need to clean this any more often than usual. The uniform list will be re-issued to parents/carers and posted on the school website. We will be mindful of any non-compliance regarding school uniforms due to the financial impact of COVID-19 on some families. On their PE day, children will come to school in their PE kit and trainers only, so they do not have to change into PE kits. Details of uniform will follow.

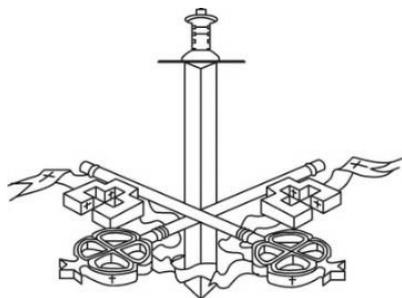
## Pupils who are unwell

It is more important than ever before, that if your child is unwell with anything with symptoms of or close to coronavirus, you do not send them to school. Any pupil who has signs of being unwell will be isolated and you will be asked to collect them. We would ask that you do not put us in the position where we have to do this if you are already aware that they do not feel well. It is also important that pupils do not come to school if anybody else in the household has symptoms. You will understand that anxieties have been and will be heightened around this issue.

## Behaviour

We always expect that excellent behaviour at Ss. Peter and Paul is the norm. However, we do understand that after such a long period away from school, we will need to take some time to remind pupils of our routines and regulations when they return. The first day back in September for all pupils will be spent doing this. We will also spend time talking to them





about the impact that this time may have had on their wellbeing and strategies for coping with this. The Behaviour for Learning Policy and the Home-School Agreement will be amended to reflect what we will expect of pupils when they return to school. I am sure that the majority of our pupils will understand why there will be some new rules and why, if they do not follow them, they will compromise the safety of everyone.

### Equipment

We will limit the number of items brought in to essential items only, such as a packed lunch, a coat; no bags other than a book bag will be allowed. We will give children their personal individual equipment to use while in school; they will not be allowed to share equipment in school. We will discourage Year 6 children from walking to and from school on their own in the autumn term, therefore we are not expecting Year 6 pupils to bring mobile phones to school.

### School lunches

- Pupils will be offered a choice of hot/cold lunches provided by school, or packed lunch provided from home.
- Class bubbles will access the school hall for lunches on a rotation across the autumn half term. If they are not timetabled for the hall then their lunch will be eaten in the classroom. This will be reviewed periodically
- Each year group will have a separate time allocated and a designated seating area when it is their turn for eating their lunch in the hall.
- Each classroom will be cleaned before and after children have lunch. Cleaning materials is provided for each class
- If you are providing your child with a packed lunch please ensure that it is in a paper disposable bag, not a lunch bag/box

### Wrap-around-care

Breakfast and Out of School Club will resume. You will receive further details of this however please be aware that **there will be no provision in the first week**. We expect to begin offering care from 7<sup>th</sup> September and build this up over time depending on uptake. We are keen to support you as best as we can while keeping our children and staff safe.

### In the event of further lockdown

While our aim is to have all pupils back at school in the autumn, we have also planned for the possibility of a local lockdown to ensure continuity of education. All communication will be via the Spider App platform so please pass on your contact details to the office if you have not yet done so. Home learning will be provided by our staff via the school website as per the current arrangements. We are currently busy constructing individual pupil access to Google Classroom, to facilitate remote learning at home.

I must emphasise that the safety and well-being of our children, their families and our staff are of paramount importance to the Governors and myself. If we have to make a partial or full school closure based on local and national data, this decision will be made with the guidance of Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive.

If you have any questions or concerns about the points we have set out above, please get in touch with me by emailing the school office or ringing.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received so far from the school community. You have been amazing! We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful summer. Take care and God bless.

With love

Mrs. P Graham  
Headteacher

