

ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

14th May 2020

Dear Parents,

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE RETURN TO SCHOOL ON 1st JUNE OF CHILDREN IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 6

Following my email of 11 May, I want to bring you up to date with our planning for the possible return to school of children in these three year groups.

The Department for Education has published the following guidance this week:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

We have been studying this (along with other guidance that the government has been publishing), carefully and assessing how we might accommodate children without compromising their safety and that of staff.

Given the limitations of space and layout, we believe it would be impossible to have 180 children in school whilst maintaining necessary social distancing. The Government has also made clear that there would be no penalties for parents who decide that they would prefer their children to remain at home for the present. **It is very important, therefore, that I know as soon as possible how many of you would actually want your children to return on 1 June. Please would you complete and return the form at <https://forms.gle/s1mrmb1VdB3y5fm57> by 4pm on Monday 18th May.** Please complete one form for each child (one parent's response only).

The key conclusions of the initial planning and assessment we have undertaken are as follows. (I should emphasise that these may be modified as we continue to plan in the light of new information and advice.)

1. Arrival at school in the morning would need to be staggered, for example Reception at 8.45am, Year 1 at 9am and Year 6 at 9.15am.
2. Children should be brought to school by just one of their parents/carers and social distancing should be strictly observed while waiting at the school gate. Parents/carers would not be allowed beyond the school gate and communication between parents and staff would have to continue by email.
3. Staff would escort children via the pathway that leads to the playground and their classrooms.
4. There would be a maximum of 6-8 children in each classroom to ensure a 2m distance between them.

5. Splitting classes into smaller groups means that children may not be in their usual classroom or be taught by their usual class teacher or Nursery Nurse/Teaching Assistant.
6. Teaching methods would be modified so that staff maintain a 2m distance from the children.
7. Corridors would become one-way, altering access routes to toilets.
8. New arrangements for serving lunch would be introduced to ensure that children remain 2m apart from each other.
9. There would be regular handwashing and cleaning of surfaces throughout the day.
10. Younger children would have a restricted amount of learning resources and play equipment so that items could be cleaned with sufficient frequency.
11. Full PPE would be worn by staff administering first aid or dealing with personal cleaning of children.
12. Children would have staggered play times to ensure that they are mixing only with the other children in their reduced class group. This means that they may not be able to see the friends they would usually play with.
13. Collection at the end of the day would be staggered, for example Reception at 2.45pm, Year 1 at 3pm and Year 6 at 3.15pm from the usual place in the playground. Children should be collected by just one of their parents/carers and social distancing should be strictly observed while parents/carers are waiting in the playground.

This first phase of the Government's plan for children's return to school applies only to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. I realise this may be difficult for parents who also have children in other year groups. We want to do what we can to support you but, at this stage, we cannot take any siblings from Years 2, 3, 4 or 5.

We shall, of course, be continuing our current provision for the children of key workers who cannot be cared for at home.

Finally, may I remind you to complete and return the online form above by 4pm on Monday 18th May.

Thank you in anticipation of your prompt response.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher