



2 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families are safe and well at this time. Firstly, I wanted to thank all of the parents and carers who have emailed, messaged on Facebook and written in support of St Catherine's staff. I know that we have all felt your support and prayers invaluable.

We'd like to thank you all on the great job that you are doing with home schooling and for sharing your experiences with us. Home schooling will continue this half term; information and tasks will continue to be available on your child's class page each week. Please remember that there is no expectation that everything is completed. We want to continue to support your child's learning and encourage you to balance formal learning activities with other things.

We want to inform you of a unanimous decision that our full Governing Body has arrived at in response to the Government's ambition to open schools on June 1st - to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We have decided that we will not be opening school before 15th June to any children other than those of Key Workers, EHCPs and the vulnerable, as we have done for the past 10 weeks. We think it is important to be clear, governors and senior managers want to minimise risk and maximise safety for our children, their parents, our staff and their families. The staff at St Catherine's have been, and will continue to be, exemplary, and have children at the heart of all that they do.

Having taken account of government and Local Authority guidance, and with the knowledge of our school, our views are that we have a duty of care to our children and staff and that, until all risk assessments requiring the full approval of the governing body have been completed and adhered to, we will not be opening further.

As you know, we have remained open throughout this crisis to the children of Key workers, which allowed them to continue to carry out their jobs on the front line in the fight against Covid 19. Our thanks and appreciation are owed to them during this very difficult time and thanks to our own staff who have looked after the children in school. We are seeing a rise in the number of requests for places for children of Key Workers. As a consequence, we will need to work on a phased, priority basis in order to make this transition. These families will remain a priority, before the children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6.

In considering further re-opening beyond 15 June, priority will continue to be given to children where both parents are Key Workers, then one parent as a Key Worker, then to pupils in Y6, Y1, Reception and Nursery in that order. We will send you information next week about the measures which we are taking to make school as safe as possible, involving children being taught in small groups (or bubbles). We will invite parents of Y6, in the first instance, to complete a Survey Monkey form to determine the demand for places from week beginning 15 June. We will then contact parents to offer places by text or by a phone call. Children will **ONLY** be able to attend school if you have received confirmation from us. As with the phased increase for Key Workers, as numbers increase our safety measures will need to be tested and adapted before other Year groups will be invited back.

We will continue to update you in the coming days/weeks once we are able to do so. Please stay safe and keep our school community in your prayer

Mr Michael Ewing (Head Teacher)

Mrs Jeni Hastie (Chair of Governors)



Healthy Schools

