



8 June 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Your Child, Your Choice

I am writing to you in relation to the further re-opening of school for Year 6 pupils from Monday 15 June. The purpose of this letter is to outline some of the changes we have made to the school and class environment and the precautions we have taken to reduce the risk of transmission.

We will be pleased to welcome back Year 6 pupils for their last few weeks at St Catherine's. Sadly the usual activities which go with this time of year, namely the Leaver's Mass, Leavers BBQ, Visits to High School, Y6 residential, Talent Show and Camp Out are all going to be affected by this Covid-19 crisis. However, we will do everything we can to make this a special time for your child.

Tomorrow we will send you a link so that you can share a video with your child showing how the school environment looks a little bit different. We will also send you a link to a survey specifically for Y6 parents and we ask that you complete this, whether or not you choose for your child to return. The government has made it clear on several occasions that no parents will be penalised if you do not wish your child to return to school yet and they stay at home. Ultimately it is your decision. We recognise that there are many varied views and family situations regarding vulnerabilities. Whatever you decide, we will respect your choice.

The COVID-19 virus is spread either through breathing in air droplets from the mouth / nose or through the hands touching an infected surface. So, we have implemented a number of measures to reduce the risk of transmission which are outlined below:

- Children will be in small groups called 'bubbles' and will remain in them all day (7-8 per group).
- Children may be taught in a different room to their normal classroom (Y3-Y6 classrooms)
- Children may not be taught by their usual class teacher
- Playtime and lunchtime will be in the separated 'bubbles' with no mixing across bubbles
- The Home Learning set by teachers will also be delivered in school
- No whole school Collective Worship or whole class gatherings
- Children will be placed at separate tables, 2m away from their peers and teachers
- Drop off and Collection will be at staggered times relating to their 'bubbles'
- Only 1 adult to drop off/collect and 2m distances adhered to at all times on school premises
- Learning equipment will be limited to that which can be more easily cleaned
- Each child will be given their own pencil case with the resources required for the day
- No Breakfast or After School Club or any lunchtime/after school clubs
- Additional cleaning staff on site throughout the school day
- Signage and marking external and internal to the building
- Excess furniture removed from classrooms to enable 2m distancing
- 2m distancing to be used within classroom spaces and in all school places



- Y6 children will be dropped off between 9-9.15am each day Mon-Friday
- Y6 children will be collected at 3pm each day Monday-Thursday
- **Y6 children will finish at 12 noon on Friday** to enable a deep clean of all teaching spaces and resources.
- In order to assist with planning if you decide that your child will return, we expect them to attend each day
- A Home/School agreement will be sent home prior to your child's return. We ask that you share this with your child
- Children should only bring a packed lunch and water bottle to school. We will not be using cloakrooms and indoor shoes will not be required. Coats, hats will be kept at their desks.
- Children will wash hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day. They can bring hand cream that stays in school to prevent dry skin if they wish.
- Children will need to wear clean clothes each day. We won't insist that this is uniform, although it is preferable.
- Parents should follow social distancing regulations when travelling to and from school on public transport. We encourage you to walk/cycle where possible.

Whilst it may seem that the children will be returning to a very regimented environment, the rules are being applied with our Key Workers group and feedback from children and their parents has been very positive.

I am happy to discuss any questions or comments you wish to make. Please don't hesitate to give me call.

Best wishes



M Ewing
Headteacher