

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

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11th May 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Coronavirus Update

School Return

I am sure that you are all aware of the Prime Minister's announcement last night regarding potential school reopening. At present, we do not have any more information than that outlined in his broadcast – namely that we may be looking at a return to school for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils, on or after 1st June. Like us, you may have been left with many questions. Unfortunately, we cannot answer them until we have further guidance from the Government. In the short-term, nothing has changed – the guidance in relation to key workers and others who can access school childcare remains the same. I will provide further information in the coming days and weeks, once I am able to do so. I am also working with all the Watford Headteachers to try to ensure a consistent, unified approach, which will give you certainty. As a Head, I want to get pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. We miss them as much as they are missing us. I am also very conscious of the widening gap, the longer they are out of schooling. As teachers and school staff, we have devoted our lives and careers to the care and education of young people – we do not want to see classrooms empty for a day longer than they need to be.

However, our first priority is always the safety of everyone in the school community. We will be carrying out risk assessments and following all Government guidance to ensure that our pupils and families will be safe whenever they do return to us.

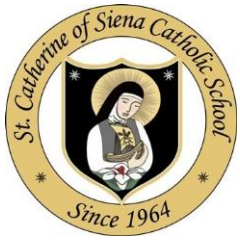
Year 6 & Year 2

Today would have been the start of Year 6 SATs week. This is a significant moment in a primary child's life – the culmination of so much hard work. Our pupils worked with dedication and commitment to achieve their full potential in the tests. I'm sorry for them, that they won't get the satisfaction of knowing just how far they've come, or the pride that our children always feel on results day.

However, I want them to know that their success is not measured in an exam – the diligence they demonstrated in preparing for the SATs will stand them in good stead for life; the knowledge they gained will ensure they enter Secondary ready for the next phase of their



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education and the maturity they have shown in this crisis proves that they are true ambassadors for St Catherine's. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you! During this week especially, be proud of yourselves! I know that the whole SATs team, Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Waugh, Miss Bowler and Miss Holt are similarly proud of everything that the children have achieved. Year 2 children shouldn't even know that they sit SATs. However, they have missed out on lots of fun quizzes! Miss Stanton and Mrs Pargeter have been delighted at how far they have come this year and know that they would have demonstrated that progress.

Keeping in Touch

During this period of lockdown, I have no doubts that we have all had good days and bad days. We miss our freedom, we miss our space, we miss social contact and most importantly, we miss those we love but aren't with. The incredible videos and photos that you have uploaded to Twitter have lifted my spirits when I needed it most! Seeing the children's smiling faces and reading their messages has made me cry and made me laugh. I've also been deeply touched by those who have sent me personal messages of support. Whatever the next few weeks bring, I promise I will do everything I can to support you, your children and families. Our greatest strength lies in the fact that we are a family and The Family of St Cath's will get through whatever lies ahead together.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay in good humour. Stay sane.

God bless,

Nikki Kane



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