

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Ms Nicola Kane LLB.PgDip, PgCert.

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Email: admin@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk

www.stcatherinescatholicprimaryschool.co.uk

Horseshoe Lane
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28th May 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Arrangements for reopening to additional year groups

Further to my previous updates, I write to inform you of the plan for reopening to additional year groups.

Yesterday, the SLT and Mrs Robinson (Premises Manager) met on site to complete the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust Covid-19 Risk Assessment. Produced for our school by Ellis Whittham, this is a process that all schools in our Trust must complete, and submit to the Board and Ellis Whittham for approval.

Having undertaken the Risk Assessment, I can confirm that we can currently only safely open to EYFS pupils, in addition to vulnerable and key worker children. In line with Government guidance, all pupils will be allocated to a small 'group' of children, known as a 'Bubble'. This group will be allocated a minimum of two adults. Pupils will need to stay within their group and cannot mix with staff or pupils in other groups.

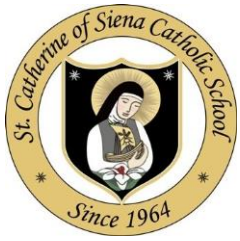
Our plan is for Reception children to return to school on Wednesday 3rd June 2020 as part of our first phase of re-opening, subject to Government guidance. Depending on additional Government guidance, ongoing risk assessment and staffing, we are planning on a phased return. We are hoping that Years 1 and Year 6 will return to school later in the summer term. We will confirm further details to parents as and when we are able to move towards welcoming a second phase of pupils back to school.

I am sorry that this may be a disappointment to some of you, especially those who were hoping that their Year 6 child would be returning next week. I share your disappointment. However, the safety of our school community, children, staff and families is always our priority. Unless and until I am convinced that additional reopening can be done safely, I will not do it. The 1st and 2nd June 2020 will be Covid-19 Training Days for all staff, so that they can receive training on our new arrangements for welcoming back children to school, and prepare the school site.

Please remember that pupils must stay at home and self-isolate if they or anyone else in their household is showing symptoms of the coronavirus. Further details about the symptoms are



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available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

Many parents have informed me that they will not be sending their child/ren back to school as they do not currently feel that it is safe. I fully support anyone who has made that decision and all absences will be authorised. As parents, you are best placed to evaluate what is best for your own child's physical and mental wellbeing, taking into account the whole family's individual circumstances.

As previously explained, we will not be teaching the National Curriculum to any returning pupils. The provision will mirror the activities sent home for Home Learning.

If you are a parent of an EYFS child and you will be sending your child back on Wednesday, 3rd June 2020, please can you email me at head@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk confirming this. I will then allocate your child to a 'Bubble' and give you further details, including in relation to drop off, collection and the school day. Unfortunately, we will not be able to take into account any parental preferences in relation to groupings or staffing.

Kind regards,

Ms Kane



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