



St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs. C.M. O'Hara B.Ed DPSE(Mus)



Friday 22nd May 2020

Partial reopening news

Dear Parents,

Thank you

This is not the usual newsletter, but is one that you have all been waiting for, no doubt. Firstly, can I pass on my heartfelt thanks to all parents who have been really supportive and respectful of the shifting sands we are witnessing, regarding proposed potential re- opening of schools from Monday 1st June 2020, for Key worker children, Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 pupils. Your readiness to comply with new regulations, laughter, prayers, pictures and comments have really been fantastic.

St Mary of the Angels Senior leaders have been working hard to prepare for your children and your safe return. In a nut shell, they have been absolute stars: from Mrs Lewis preparing her video and supporting the SEN needs of many: to Mrs Smith manning the website and gutting the classrooms/organising teachers and support staff to be ready for the partial opening; to Mrs Hayes liaising with staff pastorally, supporting home communications, being a “trouble shooter” and ringing to ascertain the well-being of our community. There has been much laughter, but much detailed discussion too. Premises, Kitchen, Office, Support and Teaching Staff have also been real team players- acknowledging need, being flexible and demonstrating a proper sense of compassion and understanding to all stakeholders: children, parents and staff.

Being safe and making promises

Governors are now in receipt of detailed *Risk Assessments*, for the likely scheduled opening of school on **Tuesday 2nd June** to those Key Worker parents who have responded and those in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 . The additional day is to support the many staff who have not been able to set foot in the building for 10 weeks. In order to be safe and water tight in our application of the necessary precautions, we will be practising and preparing staff to be completely clear in the varying aspects of their different roles.

Below is a detailed summary of the Risk Assessments and plans in place, which we require ALL parents to adhere to. However, firstly, can I express that Governors and staff cannot provide absolute assurance that social distancing and safe hygiene methods will be maintained at all times. We can, however, guarantee that we will do our absolute best to ensure that the children and staff are as safe as we can possibly make them. We know that this assurance is said with total confidence.

Details for partial re - opening

I apologise, once more, for what may appear to be a list of instructions. I trust that you will respect the need to **be clear** as part of the desire to **be safe**.

Tuesday 26th May –Friday 29th May

School open to vulnerable children and Key workers, who have indicated their need

Monday 1st June

School open to vulnerable children and key workers who have indicated their need to be in school. If there are any urgent outstanding needs amongst key workers, please email Postbox, before Friday 29th May 2020, stating your times and needs. I ask that you continue to be level headed and fair, respecting the needs of the school staff and only utilise this day, if there are no alternative measures: Eg grandparents, partners etc.

From Tuesday 2nd June

Arrival times

Key workers – 8.45am	Nursery 9.15am	Reception 9am	Y1 8.45am	Y6 8.45am
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Please note that **wherever possible**, we request that **Key workers of children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 use the times and gates that have been given for their classes**. Where you have **more than one child attending, then please use the time and the gates of your oldest child**.

Arrival gates- staff will be on hand to support and guide you.

Key workers of Y3,4,5 to use main entrance to the school office, entering via the car park and leaving via the Nursery path and gate. Mr Sutton will be there to receive you. No cars will be allowed on premises Parents will be expected to maintain social distancing.	Nursery to enter via the Nursery gate and leave via the school car park. Mrs Gallagher will be there to receive you. No cars will be allowed on premises Parents will be expected to maintain social distancing	Reception to enter via the large green double gates at the bottom of the car park, leading into the playground and leave via the school car park. Mrs Smith will be there to receive you. No cars will be allowed on premises Parents will be expected to maintain social distancing	Y1 and key workers of Y2 to enter via the pupil gate at the top of Weston Crescent where there will be clear signage to maintain a one way flow for all parents. Mrs Hayes will be there to receive you. No cars will be allowed on premises Parents will be expected to maintain social distancing	Y6 to enter via the bottom gate on Cranleigh Close where there will be clear signage to maintain a one way flow for parents. Mr marsh will be there to receive you.
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Accessories and lunches

All children will need to be in school uniform. Where uniform has been washed and is not dry, they can wear a sensible, comfortable smart alternative until uniform is ready. No jeans or inappropriate clothing, please parents.

All children will need to either purchase a school lunch via the gateway as usual (Reception and KS1 children do not need to pay, as usual) or to bring a school lunch from home. This will need to be in a labelled plastic /paper disposable bag- which will be thrown away after lunch-no sandwich boxes. This will limit the spread of infection.

No school bags will be permitted on site- to reduce unnecessary risk of infection.

Collection times

Please note that **wherever possible**, we request that **Key workers collect their children as soon as possible or as agreed with the head teacher from the main entrance**. Where you have **more than one child attending, then please use the time**

and the gates of your oldest child.				
Key workers of Y3,Y4,Y5 – 3pm	Nursery 2.30pm	Reception 2.45pm	Y1and Y2 key Workers-3pm	Y6 3pm
Collection gates				
These will be the same gates as are used each morning. Staff will be available to support you to collect your children safely whilst respecting the need to maintain social distance.				
School will be closed to all children on Friday afternoons - this is to allow for a deep clean and also to allow staff to have time to plan properly for the forthcoming week. Nursery and Reception children will need to be collected at 12pm from their gates as usual. Key workers and Y1 and Y6 will need to be collected at 12.30pm from their gates as usual.				
What will my child/ren experience as they walk through the doors?				
<p>The school has been transformed, with good support from all staff and classrooms have been deep cleaned and overhauled. Unnecessary clutter and soft furnishings will not be accessible. Children will be in groups of children from their class- there will be no more than 10 children in any one setting. Children will be supported to sit at separate tables with their school pencil/pen, book and be ready for action. Desks will be 2m apart in all settings, as best we can- with a minimum distance of 1.7m. Nursery children will have access to some toys; these will be washed after EACH use, using a safe recommended disinfectant. Pens and resources used higher up the school will be wiped down twice daily.</p> <p>Access to play grounds will maintain social distancing, but children will be encouraged to play with some equipment e.g. bats and balls. These will then be sanitised appropriately after each use.</p> <p>Staff will be directly linked to a group- with no more than 3/4 staff having regular access to each group. These staff and groups will be kept at a respectable social distance from all other groups at all times.</p> <p>Assembly times and PE times in the hall will not take place. Instead, PE and Collective Worship will happen within each group (referred to as Family groups).</p> <p>Lunches will be eaten by staff and children, within their room setting (referred to as hubs). Weather permitting, family group staff will then accompany children out after lunch for a 20 minute play. Children will be expected to maintain social distancing but to enjoy each others' company, under staff jurisdiction.</p> <p>Each Family Group (no more than 10 children) have been assigned their own sink, access to running water, soap, paper towels and hand sanitiser, where needed. They will also be assigned to specific toilets and will be shown how to access their own play spaces. All classrooms will be cleaned down twice daily (once in the middle of the day) to ensure enhanced cleaning is in place. Additional bins have been purchased to ensure that paper towels and disposable tissues or gloves are safely removed twice daily, to reduce the risk of infection. The corridors have been marked with good social distancing signage and spots as a visual reminder.</p> <p>Corridors cannot be a one-way system as they are too narrow, however there will not be a need for children to cross over as breaks, entrances and play areas are staggered, and are also in differing parts of the building.</p> <p>Children will be positively encouraged to wash their hands at least every 2 hours and also on return from play, on arrival into school and before exit from school. This will again reduce the risk of infection. Signage and songs/posters will support good hygiene and will embrace a happy approach to it from all staff.</p>				
What will my child/ren learn?				
<p>Home learning will be in operation in exactly the same way as it has been since Lockdown. Children at home or at school will experience the same opportunities,</p> <p>Home learning books will be given out (please keep current Home Learning books at home, to reduce the risk of infection) and all work will be completed in one book.</p> <p>Each afternoon, additional activities will be planned by teachers for those in school. These will be lighter activities to engage and fire children's imagination.</p>				

How can I help?

Please be prompt. Staggered starts have been carefully planned to reduce congestion and therefore infection levels.

Please read and follow guidelines, especially about lunches and about personal belongings. Summer hats will be the only necessary additions to uniforms.

Please be proud of your children- they will be nervous they will be unsure. Know them well- if they do not wish to talk, don't push them. Respect how they react and put them at their ease.

Please respect staff. Some have vulnerabilities of their own; they need your social distance and your co-operation.

Meetings that are needed can be via face time or Microsoft teams. We will still liaise with you , but we need to think outside of the box.

Please continue to read all emails and information thoroughly , to avoid unnecessary phone calls. The website also serves as a reminder

And what about if I am not returning my child to school?

Home learning will continue to be uploaded each Monday and Wednesday.

New exercise books are available for children who have finished their books via the main office.

Parents of children in, Reception, Y1 and Y6 who are choosing not to send their children in to school, will need to phone school each Monday and Wednesday between 9-12pm. This will ensure that they have been registered appropriately in line with SAFEGUARDING requirements. Please prioritise this, to avoid staff needing to phone you or having to make home visits to check that you are all safe.

Parents of vulnerable children will receive a weekly call. Thank you for your understanding in keeping us informed.

All other parents, please answer the phone when we ring. We will not be long but have a duty of care to check that all is well. 😊

And Finally...

Those of you celebrating Eid, have a lovely weekend and huge congratulations on maintaining your fast. We are proud of you and will keep you in our prayers.

Have a lovely bank holiday and Half term. Let your children come away from their screens and play. Work can resume in June.

Please keep us in your prayers and we will keep you in our prayers, I promise.

A workable light video is available on the website 9 from Tuesday 26th May). Please take the time to look at it. It will help you and reassure your children.

Regards

Claire O'Hara