

St. Francis' Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Maria Wheeler

14th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID 19 - Update

I am writing because I am aware that the recent announcements from the Government and DfE about the return for YR, Y1 and Y6 on 1st June and then the whole school a month before the end of term, must be causing much anxiety about reopening and what that will look like.

I just wanted to reassure you that the Governors and I are all looking closely at the Government guidance and having lots of discussions around how this can be achieved. We obviously have a lot of planning and risk assessments to undertake first and schools are expecting more Government guidance this week. We want to open in a manner that is best for us all, practical and carefully planned way with the health and safety of our children, your families and our staff as a priority. We have been asked by the Local Authority to wait until all guidance has been received before responding to parents. I will therefore write again once I know more. We will also be sending out a survey next week, to establish your intentions around your children returning to school, with a section where you can ask questions and make comments. We do not want to do this until we can share with you what our school reopening will look like, so you can make an informed decision. The Staff and I would appreciate it if you could help us for now by holding off from emailing us questions, as there is still much going on in the background and schools will know more in the next few days.

One practical measure I can share, based on the guidance already received, is that we will be suspending the uniform requirements until September. We are aware that children will have outgrown clothes and shoes and buying new uniform is an expense parents can do without at this time. One part of the government advice, which will apply to both staff and children is: *there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in an educational or childcare setting.* We will need parents to follow this advice and for children to come to school each day in fresh clothes. They can wear uniform if they want to, but it is not a requirement. From a daily washing point of view, we imagine that wearing fresh clothes each day will be more manageable if they wear their own clothes daily rather than uniform. We will be planning fun outdoor activities (in a socially distanced manner) and will need children to be in practical clothing eg: tracksuit bottoms, leggings shorts, t-shirts and jumpers or hoodies and comfortable outdoor shoes or trainers. We will not expect children to be changing clothes for PE, so clothes suitable for outdoor play and games is ideal.

The Staff and I would like to thank you for the lovely messages of thanks and support that you have been sending. We are all hoping to manage the return in a safe and practical way and are very much looking forward to seeing you and your children.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs M Wheeler'.

Mrs M Wheeler
Headteacher