Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents,

PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A PARTIAL AND GRADUAL RE-OPENING TO ADDITIONAL YEAR GROUPS – TERM 6

*‘In step 2* (of the easing of lockdown) *– at the earliest June 1st – after half term – we believe we may*

*be in a position to begin the phased re-opening of shops and to get primary pupils back in schools*

*beginning with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.’* Prime Minister – Sunday 10th May 2020

In the days following this announcement, the Government provided numerous (and ever changing) documentation and guidelines, which, in turn were interpreted further by Wiltshire Council. As a result, we have spent the last 10 days planning (in consultation with cluster schools, the LA and Diocese) what this would look like for our school.

Whilst we do have an approved plan in place, it is worthwhile acknowledging that over the half term break, the Government decision to re-open schools might still change, as scientific evidence is examined further. Government briefing messages and news headlines change on a frequent basis. Professional associations such as the British Medical Association and Teaching Unions still query if scientific evidence shows that re-opening schools is safe for children, their families and school staff. The availability of Track and Trace technology still remains uncertain.

At Saint Patrick’s our approach will be to start…….SAFE……...SMALL……...SLOW……….FAIR…….

The safety of our whole school community is paramount and any phased return must be managed with extreme caution and care, with all necessary protective measures in place. As we endeavour to introduce our partial reopening, it is important to point out that our children’s experience of the school day will be different to their ‘normal’ experience, as we uphold social distancing measures and rigorous levels of hygiene and cleanliness.

This means that:

* All children will be taught in ‘Bubbles’ – smaller groups than normal, allocated with one teacher and TA – not necessarily the usual class teacher
* Indoor and outdoor learning and play spaces will be zoned, with each ‘Bubble’ based in its own zone
* Children will be allowed to work and play together (observing social distancing) within their own ‘Bubble’, but not mix with children in other groups
* Equipment and resources cannot be shared and will be thoroughly cleaned between each use
* Start and end of day times must be staggered, as will breaktime and lunchtimes for ‘Bubble’ groups

At present, Mrs. Courtney and myself are establishing the capacity of our school staff *(managing self shielding or illness).* We are risk assessing appropriately sized learning spaces, plans to adapt the wider school environment, timetables and routines, as well as our ability to regularly deep clean the wider school *-* so we can calculate exactly how many children we can support at any one time.

Based on the Government and LA guidance and our own specific circumstances, our phased reopening plans are as follows:

* Children of key workers or vulnerable ONLY will return to school on Monday 1st June (week 1) – giving our staff time to deep clean the entire school, prepare zones, plan learning and prepare group spaces fully.
* Reception and Year 1 children will return to school in week beginning 8th June (week 2) – either Monday and Tuesday (Team A) or

Thursday and Friday (Team B).\*

* School will be closed to all pupils, other than key worker / vulnerable, each Wednesday; to allow staff to complete an additional deep clean.

\* *To ensure we minimalise staff changes to Reception / Year 1 ‘Bubble’ groups, we must split the week to accommodate our job share staff.*

*\* We will continue to provide provision for the children of key worker / vulnerable children every day of the week, regardless of which year group they are in, with this provision ongoing into June. However, in the case of Reception and Year 1 pupils, it may be that they will need to remain in this ‘Bubble’ rather than one with their peers. The school will contact each parent individually to discuss this as appropriate.*

The Leadership team and Chair of Governors will review provision weekly in order to make decisions for the following week. By the end of the third week of partial re-opening we would be in a position to inform you if there is capacity for Year 6 groups to return for Week 4.

To help us finalise the first stage our plans, we need a clear idea of how many key worker children will be returning for week beginning 1st June – and on which specific days. The school has requested earlier this week that these families contact us by noon tomorrow.

We appreciate the challenge that you all face in managing home learning, juggling child care and managing working from home, managing shifts or now going out to work. Of course, we would prefer to be in a position to provide you with details of longer term plans, but hopefully you will recognise that this is impossible at this time. Rest assured, we will stay in touch with you weekly and keep you informed of governmental changes as well as potential adjustments to our plans.

Headteachers of the Corsham Cluster and Camino Partnership of schools are united in the belief that schools should re-open as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

Whatever you have read in newspapers about schools re-opening, Saint Patrick’s staff community will not ‘play politics’ with our families.

We miss your children immensely, and look forward to a time we can welcome them all back to school.

I’d like to finish by paying tribute to Mrs Courtney for her incredible support and commitment, as well as the office team who have worked vigilantly to assist me in decision making and communication – in addition to the mountain of other Government / LA introduced tasks. Sincere thanks also go to the teaching staff for the care and effort which as gone into preparing weekly Home Learning packs, videos, messages, phonecalls and emails. In addition to staff teaching next term, they will contnue to provide online Home Learning packs for those children who remain at home.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding – it means the world to us in these unprecedented times.

Have a good half term break. Stay safe. Stay positive!

*R.E. McLoughlin J. Courtney Mrs. M. Ellis*

*Executive Headteacher Headteacher Designate Chair of Governors*

ELEMENTS OF PLANS TO IMPLEMENT A PARTIAL AND GRADUAL RE-OPENING TO ADDITIONAL YEAR GROUPS – TERM 6

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| STAGGERED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES  \* Reception / Year 1 children will arrive at 8.45am and leave at 2.45pm. They will enter and leave school via the blue gates to the right of the building.  \* Key worker children wil arrive at 9am and leave at 3pm. They will enter through the school lobby.  \* Parents will hand Reception /Year 1 pupils over to ‘Bubble’ staff at the blue gate and not enter the school gounds. Key worker parents will hand pupils over outside the school main door.  \* A variety of non contact greetings will be used daily.  \* A one way system will be in place for parents, marked out on the ground for social distancing and to reduce congestion.  \* Only 1 adult per child will be permitted on the school grounds. | CLASSROOMS AND ORGANISATION  \* Key worker Bubbles will be in Years 3 and 4 classrooms – Green room if required.  \* Reception and Year 1 Bubbles will be in Years Reception, 1 and 2 classrooms.  \* Each Bubble group will have an allocated Teacher and TA.  \* Staff will organise furniture to ensure children are well spaced out and not working opposite each other. All unnecessary furniture / equipment will be removed from the classooms to enable maximum space.  \* A seating plan will ensure each child uses the same chair, desk, resource and carpet space daily.  \* Each child will have a plastic box with their name on it, which will contain their resources eg. pens, whiteboards.  \* All resources that cant be easily washed eg. soft toys, cushions, dressing up clothes etc. will be removed from the classroom.  \* Where possible, we will maximise outdoor learning opportunities.  \* Summer school uniform should be worn. It will not be appropriate for children to change into PE kit for physical activity.  \* If weather continues to be fine, children will need to bring in sun hats. Please apply sun cream to your child before arrival at school. We will not be able to re-apply during the school day. |
| WASHING HANDS  \* Children and staff will use hand sanitiser on arrival, and before departure.  \* Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms and high traffic points throughout the school.  \* Children will wash their hands or use sanitiser at key points during the day – up to 8 times. This wil be modelled and supervised by Bubble staff.  \* Hand cream will be available for children and staff to use. Parents may wish to provide their own hand cream if a chid has allergies. Staff will supervise children washing hands thoroughly and will make time for children to put cream on if wanted.  \* Children will be allowed to go to the toilet whenever they need to – but one at a time. |
| BREAKTIMES AND LUNCHTIMES  \* Children will remain in their Bubble groups for playtime – supervised by their allocated Teacher / TA.  \* Playtimes will be staggered to enable children to maintain social distancing. Bubble groups will have an allocated play zone.  \* All permitted playground equipment will be cleaned after each use.  \* Pupils will wash hands before and after breaks.  \* Children will eat lunch in their classrooms – if weather is fine, an outdoor socially distanced picnic will be preferable.  \* Children must bring in a filled water bottle. Staff will refill bottles as needed. Use of water fountains is not permitted.  \* Coats, bags and belongings will be stored in the Bubble classroom. Lockers will not be used.  \* Staff will have breaks on a rota. They will use shared facilities appropriately, within maximum number use. They will be responsible for cleaning after use.  \* Staff will bring in own mugs / water bottles / food storage / cutlery etc.  \* Anti bac wipes, hand sanitiser, soap and lotion will be provided in all staff facilities. |
| IN CASE OF ILLNESS  \* The POP room will be used as an ‘isolation suite’ for any child or adult who displays symptoms. This room will not be used for any other purpose.  \* The parent will be contacted to come and collect the child immediately.  \* The parent will be asked to have their child tested for COVID-19, and should inform the school of the result.  \* Identified First Aiders will attend to the child. They will wear PPE equipment and follow all guidelines in aiding the child.  \* All equipment must be disposed of in line with guidance.  \* Parents must keep children at home if they are unwell – with any symptoms at all. |