



Northern Saints
Catholic Education Trust

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336: Fax. 0191 4898338

Acting Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Graham

Acting Head of School: Mrs. A. Tumelty

soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk

18th May 2020

Dear Families,

Dear Parent/Carer,

Dear parent / carer,

Re: possible reopening of school to more pupils in June

Further to our earlier letter written just after the government's announcements about schools beginning to re-open for some year groups from 1 June, we wanted to share some more information with you about what this means and to **request that those who have children in the eligible year groups, complete a short survey by 4pm on Tuesday 19th May to indicate whether you intend to send your child into school. The survey has been sent out via text message.**

What the government has announced:

- It is the **aim** for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return to primary schools from 1 June (and for secondary schools to offer some face to face support for years 10 and year 12) **if they believe it is safe then. The government has said this will be decided provided that their five tests are met to enable their roadmap milestones to meet this date.**
- This is alongside children of Key Workers and vulnerable children who have been actively encouraged to attend.
- Children who are 'shielding' (because they are clinically extremely vulnerable) or who live with someone who is 'shielding' should not attend. However, those who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (the category below shielding, including those who are pregnant) can attend. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.
- All staff and pupils will be eligible for testing if they show symptoms.
- Families should inform school if their eligible children will not be attending so that we can understand the barriers to them attending.
- Parents will not be fined for non-attendance during this time.
- The **ambition** is that all primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible.

What are we planning to do in our school:

Firstly, we want to start by reiterating that the health, safety and wellbeing of your child(ren), staff and our wider community is of the utmost importance to us and we have this at the forefront of our mind in everything we do and plan to do.



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This is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we have taken on board the guidance that has been issued and are working hard to devise and carry out a full risk assessment specific to our school on all the issues that need addressing. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Transport to and from school
- Entrance into and exit from school
- Uniform
- Movement around school
- Cleaning
- Learning activities in school
- Gaining the confidence of you as parents/carers

We will write to you again with more detail on each of the above areas and the key practical and policy changes we will need to make to ensure our school is safe. In advance of this, so that we can ensure that your concerns are taken on board in our plans, if you have a child in any of the eligible groups, **we would be very grateful if you could complete the short survey by 4pm on Tuesday 19th May**. Please be assured that your response is by no means binding and that we are not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. Your honest views at this time are very important though, so that we can adapt our plans to be as accurate as possible.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are unable at this time to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home and we will write further with our detailed plans once we have received the completed surveys. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Graham and Mrs Tumelty



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