



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

23rd May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you and your families are safe and well. We want to personally thank you all for your support for the decisions that we have taken over recent weeks during this very difficult and uncertain time.

As you will be aware that our Prime Minister and the government have set an aspiration to open up schools on a phased basis from Monday 1st June. The guidance from the government is that schools are to consider widening provision from that which is currently in place for key workers and vulnerable children. In Primary Schools the additional provision to be considered is for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6; with an aspiration that all children in Primary Schools return for at least one month prior to the summer break.

Following the letter from the Trust Directors last week, you will be aware that they are making decisions regarding opening on June 2nd. The directors will make their decisions based on the risk assessments in place and St Mary's wish to assure you that every measure possible will be put in place to ensure the safety and well-being of both students and staff.

As you might imagine, the planning for the pupils' return is a complex one. In the coming few weeks, leaders will be working tirelessly to ensure our plans for reopening are robust and shared with you in advance. We are currently focusing on HOW school will open and not WHEN.

You will be given additional information about school opening once a decision has been made on June 2nd, which will include dates, routines, images and safety guidance.

We will write to you again next week to inform you of the decisions that have been reached and why. We will also provide you with further guidance on how we will operate.

As a result of COVID19, all of our lives have experienced significant disruption. This disruption has undoubtedly presented significant difficulties and anxieties for us all. We eagerly anticipate the day when, not just the pupils identified by the Government, but all of our pupils and staff can return to school; to enjoy time with their friends and for St Mary's to go back to being the safe, happy, learning environment that we all miss so much.

Although you have not seen your teachers or school staff, they have been working very hard behind the scenes; setting you work, supporting key worker and vulnerable families and checking in with you weekly as well as delivering food and work packages. This May half term holiday is a chance for them and you to relax and switch off from the hard work that has been happening in your homes and here at school. Therefore, staff will not be setting any work in the holidays and you will not receive your weekly call.

For families entitled to Free School Meals, we have been advised that vouchers are not available for the half term week and hopefully you received your food pack last week.



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We would like to thank the parents and pupils for all your support and hard work. Moreover, we would like to extend our thanks to the dedication of our community whose commitment has been superb. For you as parents and many of our staff, home schooling, working and juggling day to day life is not an easy task - we too are experiencing this for ourselves!

We think you are all doing a brilliant job and you should be feeling very proud of your efforts. Finally, we wish you all a very peaceful and safe half term and hope that you are able to enjoy the sunshine together with your families.

Mrs Graham and Mrs Tumelty



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