



SS Peter & Paul RC Primary School

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Dear parents, carers and families

I hope you are all well and are making the most of the gorgeous sunshine!

Following Mike Conlon's letter to all parents in South Tyneside this week, I wanted to share some more information with you about what a **possible** reopening plan could look like at Ss Peter and Paul.

In our questionnaire, parents asked for more information about what school would look like. The last thing I want to do is frighten our families and gorgeous children but I do want you to be as informed as possible. Remember it is up to parents to decide to send their children into school; the government has said that parents will not be fined for non-attendance during this time.

Firstly, I want to start by reiterating that the health, safety and wellbeing of your child(ren), staff and our wider community of Ss Peter and Paul is the most important thing to us; this at the forefront of our mind in everything we do and plan to do.

What are we planning to do at Ss Peter and Paul :

- This is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we're ready to receive the eligible year groups **if it's safe** for our school to reopen in the coming weeks. We are carrying out full risk assessments on all issues that need to be addressed including buildings, staffing, cleaning, curriculum etc.
- School will remain open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers from 1st June until the end of the summer term.
- The **earliest** we will open to the children of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be **8th June 2020** and only if it is **safe to do so**. This will be a **phased** plan so not all children will be returning at the same time.
- As government guidance is to still to maintain social distancing when you leave home, we will **plan** to ensure that this is able to be achieved for your children whilst in our school. To do so, we will limit the number of children in a classroom to try to enable this two metre distance to be maintained. We know social distancing is difficult to achieve with children, especially younger children therefore **we will aim to do this but we cannot promise that this will happen.**
- The largest number of children we can accommodate (whilst maintaining social distancing) in Nursery and Reception classes is 8 children; in Year 1 and 6 it is 7 children. To accommodate all of the children in these year groups, it is possible that the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 may attend school for one day per week.

1) Transport to and from school

Where possible, we strongly encourage children to be brought to school on foot / by bicycle/scooter. For those who do need to drive, we ask parents to use local carparks to avoid congestion around school.

2) Entrance into and exit from school

- Staggered start and finish times for year groups will be introduced to minimise the number of people in the vicinity of the school at any one time. We will advise you of these nearer the time.
- There will be a one way system to come into the school gates and out again.
- Social distancing at the school gates will be in place with a **maximum of 1 adult per family bringing child(ren) to school**. All family groupings must remain 2 metres apart.

3) Uniform

- We are very mindful that the clothes worn by both pupils and staff in school should be washed as often as possible. As such, children attending can wear appropriate comfortable clothing (not necessarily school uniform). You should wash these after your child has been to school to ensure a clean outfit is worn for each visit.

4) Movement around school

- Movement around the school will be limited as much as possible. Children will remain in 'year group or key worker bubbles' during their time in school. Children and staff will remain constant in these 'bubbles' to avoid cross contamination. Packed lunches (provided by school as normal) will be taken in this classroom / in an outside area.
- Where possible, we intend to use our outdoor spaces so that children will be taught outside as much as possible. This is based on the clear messages from scientific and medical experts that there is less likelihood of transmission of this disease outdoors than indoors.

5) Cleaning

- Children will be asked to wash their hands as soon as they enter school and they will be asked to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including, as normal, before lunch is taken.
- Access to toilets will be managed to ensure good hygiene practices. Toilets will be cleaned regularly throughout the school day
- School equipment will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and the equipment that children touch will be minimised as far as possible.
- We will ensure our site supervisor or a cleaner is on site throughout the day to clean toilets and areas as appropriate.

6) Learning Activities in School

- **The most important thing to us, in addition to the physical safeguarding of your child, is their mental and emotional wellbeing. We wish to ensure that our children are as happy and secure in their new learning environment as possible.** Our amended curriculum will have a key focus on well-being and mental health.
- There will also be a focus on physical activity- both indoor and outdoor where possible.
- Our main priority with regards to teaching and learning is the consolidation of prior learning and the development of skills which will assist them in their home learning.

As far as possible, we will work to ensure that those eligible children who do not return to school will receive the same work online as those in the classroom.

7) PPE (Personal Protection Equipment)- see pictures below

- Staff will wear PPE equipment in school- this will follow national guidelines but ensure the safety of the whole school community.
- The only time staff will need to wear full PPE in school is if they are administering first aid, dealing with a child with COVID 19 symptoms, dealing with intimate care (toileting issues) or working 1 to 1 with a child.

8) Gaining confidence of you as parents/carers

- This letter only includes the key information that we are able to share at this point in time and that we believe you as parents need to know now. Please rest assured that as this situation develops, I will continue to write to you regularly with updates.
- School staff will ring all of the parents of children in Nursery, reception, Year 1 and Year 6 during the week beginning 1st June 2020 to answer any questions, worries or queries you have. Remember it is up to families to decide whether they want their children to return to school if a phased reopening happens; parents will not be fined for non-attendance during this time.

I have included photographs of the learning spaces in school and staff wearing PPE. Again I want to stress, this is not to alarm anyone- this is to ensure that you are informed.

Currently 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. If you are a key worker and you want provision for your child(ren) you can organise this by emailing me at mbutt@sspeterpaul.s-tyneside.sch.uk. Requests will need to be emailed no later than the **Friday** for provision for the following week. Children will not be able to attend any school provision if they are not booked in or school has not been informed.

If you need support, help or have any safeguarding issues during the half term holiday please email me at mbutt@sspeterpaul.s-tyneside.sch.uk

School is closed at half term, 25th May- 29th May. This is a holiday from home schooling for everybody- no work will be set during this time! We will return to our home schooling on Monday 1st June. Have a lovely holiday and please do not worry about school- we are here to answer any of your questions and queries.

Finally, I would just like to say thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home and all of the support you have given the staff of Ss Peter and Paul; I feel truly blessed to be the headteacher of Ss Peter and Paul School Family.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Butt

