



## St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

Telephone: 01924 423220

Website: [www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk](http://www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs C Moulding

Deputy Headteacher: Miss J Smith

Email: [office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk)

14.05.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure the majority of you, like myself and the staff watched the announcement by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson on Sunday regarding the roadmap for exiting the lockdown. I am sure, like us you have many questions and are currently very confused about what will be happening next, the Scientific evidence behind it and how we ensure it is actioned in the safest possible way for our pupils and families, our staff and their families too.

I think it is important that you know that as Headteacher, we do not have any advance warning of the information that is being broadcast. That goes for any of the government updates as well as the announcement on Sunday which potentially will affect all of us at some point over the next few months.

Regarding the announcement that schools *may begin preparations* for a wider opening, Boris said, **"In step two - at the earliest by June 1<sup>st</sup> - we believe we may be in a position....to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with Reception, Year One and Year Six. I must stress again that all of this is conditional, it all depends on a series of big ifs."**

I wanted to reassure you that I am currently working very closely with the SLT, our governing body, the Diocese of Leeds, Kirklees and the Headteachers of our partnership Catholic Primary's in Kirklees, to look at how this can be done, with the safety of all involved as the highest priority. I will not be rushing to make any snap decisions about how our school may eventually open. It is vitally important that all possibilities are considered and any decisions are in the very best interest of all.

We might receive further guidance from the government, Kirklees or other stakeholders. Or we may not. However, I make this promise to all our families, that I am and will continue to work extremely hard with the appropriate people to make the very best decisions for our school family, and do this as quickly as is safely possible.

Many of you will be having conversations with your children regarding the announcement. I advise to be cautious with the wording you use. Boris Johnson was clear that this is, **"the first sketch of a roadmap..."** that although progress has been made towards the 5 tests, **"we have by no means fulfilled all of them"** - I do not want your children to have their hopes raised that school life may go back to normal in just a few weeks time. This will not be school as they know it and in many respects, the restrictions which will be placed on them in school **may** prove less valuable than the





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freedoms they enjoy in the home at this time. It is highly probability that the lead adult for your child's group of up to 15 pupils only will not be there usual teacher or in their usual classroom. The lead adult can be a teacher or member of our support staff. Only you as parents can judge the right course of action for your child and whatever you decide, we are here to support you and your children through this very different and difficult time.

I am sure you have many questions, feel anxious and confused also. The staff, governors and I feel like that too - many of us are parents too and the safety and wellbeing of all our children and families is weighing heavily on us right now as we work through our early preparations.

I am committed to working together to find a positive way through this. We all miss being at school, sharing the days with your wonderful children and will work extremely hard to do this as safely as we can, within our context, with our staffing situation and our building and numbers of available classroom spaces. I will of course keep you updated with further information on our plans next week.

### For Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six ONLY:

Could I please ask **only** YEAR ONE and YEAR SIX to indicate using a private message to your class teacher through the class dojo and EYFS (Nursery and Reception) through email to myself at [head.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:head.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk) , your current position on one of the following three statements:

1. I am currently planning to send my child back to school should there be a wider offer in early June.
2. I am currently hoping to send my child back before the summer holidays but do not feel the time is right by early June.
3. I do not think it is the right time for a wider opening of school and will keep my child at home until September, with continued learning support on the website.

This will help us in our planning of groups, adult leads and classrooms with possible numbers of pupils who intend to return to school. The children at school will be following the same learning provision from the website that those pupils at home will be doing.





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For those parents of pupils in Years 2 ,3, 4 and 5, please do not feel you are forgotten but it is vital we do this plan in stages and we need to concentrate our first plans to the possible step 2 of the roadmap. I will of course have further consultation with yourselves at a later time.

We will be continuing the daily provision for the children of critical workers linked to their shift pattern.

We look forward to hearing from the parents in Nursery, Reception, Year one and Year six to support our planning and preparation.

With Kind Regards

Mrs C Moulding

(Headteacher)

