



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (NC)
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NEWSLETTER

15th May 2020

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School Prayer

This is our school;

Let peace live here;

Let the rooms be full of
happiness;

Let love live here.

Love of God,

Love of one another

And love of life itself.

Let us remember

That as many hands
build a house,

So many hearts make a
School.

Amen.



Good afternoon everyone.

- 1 I hope this letter finds you all well and still holding onto your sanity if that is at all possible.
- 1 I last wrote to you about 2 weeks ago and since then the routine in school has changed little. We have around 20 children attending school each day;
- 2 we continue to contact all our families throughout the week and support them in whatever ways we can and meetings with outside agencies continue—they are just virtual now!
- 2 I have absolutely no regrets in how we have managed this situation and I am extra-ordinarily proud of the staff; the pupils who have attended and you at home.

This week we had the news from the government that they wanted schools to start re-opening from June 1st. This is a conditional date providing the data still supports a school opening.

The Department for Education want Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children to return to school first; a phased re-opening.

They have issued us a lot of guidance which I will put on the website for you to read—it is quite comprehensive.

I completely understand that many of you will be anxious; I have a niece in Reception and a nephew in Year 1 and my brothers are considering what to do. All I can do is give you my opinion and explain how we will manage it in school.

Firstly, be reassured that I, and my all the staff, will ensure that the school is safe and clean. Things will look different; groups will be smaller, there will be less mixing, more opportunities for cleaning and proper structures and plans put in place for this.

Once I have consulted all staff and governors I will publish our plan so that you can clearly see how will we manage the re-opening. I am confident that through this first phase we can support all the children in these classes who wish to come back to school.

For my part, I believe we have to start at some point getting children back to school. We are educators and we love our jobs and we want to teach your children. Schools and families may well have to get use to this new way of working for some time and I for one am finding it incredibly useful to plan for re-opening.

However I completely understand your concerns and anxieties. We are all afraid because this is not a situation we are used to and therefore my approach will be to support you whatever your decision over the next 2 months. I can tell you that all the children who have attended throughout lockdown have been safe and well. I can tell you I have complete confidence in my staff and Mr Whitmore who is on top of all the Health and Safety; I can publish how we are going to manage the situation but I understand you may be hesitant at first.

In the next week we will be phoning all parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 so that we can talk to you about re-opening and start to understand the numbers we will have returning.



Year 1 2020

The present Reception class, who will be Year 1 in September has spaces.

If you know anyone who is looking for a Year 1 space from September please get them to contact the school.

Year 5, 4, 3 and 2

We will continue to support you through home learning and won't forget about you just because others are coming back.

I am sure we will see you soon as well.

We will close for half term to ensure the school is thoroughly cleaned and re-open for those classes as well as continuing our support for key workers.

By the middle of next week you will be able to see our plans for re-opening.

I will also be creating a survey today, the link will be on the website; if you could take the time to complete it then I would be extremely grateful.

As I said we are here to support you and your children; attendance will be recorded but the government have stated that no action will be taken this term against parents who don't send their children in; I suspect that may change by September.

To give you an idea of what kind of provision we will put in place here are some of the things we are considering

- > Small groups of a maximum of 15
- > Groups will be allocated hand wash areas and toilets to use
- > Hand sanitisers will be placed around the school; outside classrooms and various other key places.
- > The start and end of the day will be staggered
- > Lunchtimes will be staggered
- > Groups will have designated outside areas to use
- > Additional cleaning will be done throughout the day
- > No additional adults or visitors will be allowed in the school
- > Lidded bins will be bought for all areas of the school and emptied throughout the day.
- > Additional soap and hand towels are in stock
- > Year 1 and Year 6 will have their own stationary packs to use
- > There will be no group assemblies

Obviously I will give you more detail next week. I am greatly looking forward to seeing some of you again and having your children back in school.

Nursery and Reception September 2020

Regardless of what is happening I still have to think about the new school year. We still have spaces in our Nursery for September 2020. If you phone the school we can send out the application to you. If you know of anyone who has a child who is 3 by September let them know about our wonderful Nursery.

We do also plan to hold parent meetings for new Nursery and Reception parents—now this might be 1-1 phone calls or face to face chats, or it might be 5 parents at a time socially distanced on the field but we will ensure that all new parents to the school have a good introduction. I will also next half term let you know about class next year.

Have a lovely weekend everyone

Best wishes and prayers, as always

Mrs Hobbs

