



Letting the light of Jesus shine through

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School,

Buller Avenue, Penwortham, Preston. PR1 9QQ

Tel 01772 742351

Fax: 01772 750351

Headteacher Mrs D Gallagher

Email bursar@st-marymagdalen.lancs.sch.uk

Website: www.st-marymagdalen.lancs.sch.uk

Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Parents

The Department of Education has requested that Year 6, 1 and R pupils are able to return to school from the first day after half term. The governors would like to make it clear that we are not medical experts and cannot guarantee that you children will be safe or that we can keep staff safe. Headteachers and unions are still pushing for scientific evidence that children and adults will not be put at adverse risk. However we also appreciate that some of you need to get back to work and appreciate our role in this.

The main reasons we are concerned about reopening are:

- The government had not published the scientific evidence explaining the basis of the decision to reopen schools
- A letter from the British Medical Association (BMA) had felt there was mixed evidence about the safe reopening of schools and further information was needed
- A comparison of the 'R rate' over the last two weeks (there is a lag in data) had increased from a range of 0.5 to 0.9 moving up to 0.7 to 1.0

As well as weighing up the risks from Covid 19 you will also need to consider if your child will cope with the different culture of a socially distanced school. This will not be a return to normal school life.

Do I have to send my child to school?

No.
Families can choose to keep their children at home and will not be fined for non-attendance.

Will my child get behind if they do not attend school?

No. The children at home will be set the same work as the children in school. We will continue to manage distance learning as well as we are able. Children at home will be able to access some Zoom PE lessons and assemblies so they feel part of the school community.

How will the children be grouped?

The children will be grouped in year groups wherever possible but must be no larger than 15 pupils so we cannot guarantee they will be with friends or taught by their teacher.

How will school enforce social distancing?

We will do our best to minimise the risk but we are sure that you will appreciate that children find social distancing practically impossible. We speak from experience from caring for the key worker children since school closed. There will be signs around school and constant reminders from staff.



ASSOCIATE FACILITATOR

When will year groups start?

Year 6 will start on Wednesday 3rd June, Year 1 on Monday 8th June and Year R on Wednesday 10th June. Governors will be constantly reviewing and monitoring practice in this time to ensure effective risk assessment. The government would like all year groups to have the opportunity to return to school this term. This will be dependant upon pupil and staff numbers and space and facilities.

Will after school care be available?

Before and after school care will be for key worker children only and will run from 8am -4.0pm. This is shortened I am afraid due to staffing. (£2 per session)

Will key worker children be with their own year cohort?

Any key worker children who need to use after school club will need to be in their own bubble as they mix with children from different year groups. This is regrettable as they will obviously want to be with their friends but we can see no other way around it.

Will staff being wearing PPE?

PPE is available for staff to wear but it is optional except when contact with child is necessary.

What are the timings of the day?

There will be staggered starts and ends to the day. This information will come out to the parents who choose to send their children. All children will finish on Friday lunchtime to ensure a deep clean of school.

Will my child get a school lunch?

All children in Reception and Year 1 will receive a brown bag lunch. If you do not wish for your child to have a brown bag then you must provide a packed lunch. Year 6 need to bring packed lunches. If a Year 6 child is a free school meal child, voucher money will continue.

What happens if my child becomes ill?

Children who are ill must not be sent into school. If they become ill they will be taken to an isolation zone with a member of staff wearing full PPE. Parents will be sent for immediately. If a child tests positive for Covid19 all parents will be informed and the staff and children within that bubble will need to isolate for 14 days.

What happens if my child is injured or has a toilet accident?

Children will be tended to by staff in full PPE.

What other measures will be in place to keep staff and pupils as safe as possible?

1. Regular handwashing will happen and there will be hand sanitiser in every classroom. Children will be reminded not to touch their faces.
2. Children will need to wear clean clothes every day, something comfortable with trainers would be best. (Not uniform). Coats will need to be clean every day so a washable light shower-proof jacket might be a sensible investment. Obviously if its dry and warm it makes life easier. Please make sure the children wear clothes that they can put and off themselves as we cannot touch them to help them.
3. The start of the day will be staggered with different drop off times for different groups. We will sort out an arrangement for siblings in the finer planning.



Lancashire Education Awards



CPD MARK
ASSOCIATE FACILITATOR

4. Childrens' desks will be spaced as much as we can and they will need to stay at their desks. (no carpet time). We cannot make this a 2 metre distance.
5. Teacher will not touch the children unless it is an emergency. (This is very hard when the children need a hug)
6. Children and staff members' temperatures will be tested as they arrive at school.
7. The first few days there will be a lot of drills, practising social distancing, fire drills etc.
8. Each child will have their own zipped wallet of equipment –pencils, wipeboard, books etc. They will not be allowed to share equipment except netbooks which will be wiped down after every single use. These will be wiped down at the end of each day by the children.
9. Children will keep their own lunchboxes and water bottles with them and be encouraged to wipe them down.
10. Younger children will be escorted to the toilets where necessary to avoid cross contamination of bubbles.
11. Each bubble will have its own timetable for using the garden, the wild area, the field, playground etc.
12. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms or outside in that bubble's designated area.
13. No contact sports or games will be played i.e. no football.
14. Each bubble will have their own allocated PE equipment.
15. Everything will be wiped down at regular points throughout the day. On Friday afternoon there will be a deep clean of school.

What if I can manage to home-school part time?

Children will be able to attend on part time basis.

What happens if pupil numbers exceed safety guidelines?

Children may be taught by an unfamiliar adult in an unfamiliar room. When further year groups are introduced if numbers are high it may be necessary to ask pupils to attend on a part time basis.

What do I need to do now?

When you have digested this please can you start to try and make some decisions? I will be sending a form out to request places in school for the whole school tomorrow. (In order for us to plan ahead in a sustainable way). I will need replies by noon on Friday. Some of you may not yet know whether you will need your child to attend. If this is the case please book a place in school. (Lessening our numbers makes little difference but increasing them will have a big knock on effect for group bubbles and staff allocation.) If you do not respond then we will assume that you do not wish for your child to attend school at this time.

Once we have names and numbers we will work out which staff can be assigned to which bubble, start and end times etc. We will try to get it done on Friday but it may push into the holiday before all is finalised as there is a lot to consider.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs D Gallagher
Headteacher



CPD MARK
ASSOCIATE FACILITATOR