



St. Austin's Catholic Primary School – A Voluntary Catholic Academy
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Friday 29th May 2020

Pentecost

This coming Sunday, the Church celebrates the great feast of Pentecost. This is the feast of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church – a gift we receive at Baptism, Confirmation and at Mass. On the day of Pentecost, Christ filled the Church with the power of his Spirit and sent it out into the world to bring his peace, joy and forgiveness to everyone.

Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church and the start of the Church's mission to the world.

In the Gospel reading for Pentecost Sunday, we hear how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples, to help them be brave enough to share God's message with others. The disciples were filled with the courage to see that they could do what Jesus was asking of them. Jesus asks us to do the same – to spread His message of peace to all people through what we do.

The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to answer Jesus' call, to do what God asks of us even when it is difficult. We each answer that call in a different way, but the Holy Spirit helps and guides us along the way.



Congratulations!

I am sure you will all be delighted to hear the news the Mrs. Mills has had a baby boy – Isaac Thomas, who was born on the 15th May. On behalf of the whole St. Austin's Community we offer our congratulations to Mrs. Mills and her husband.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION VERY CAREFULLY.

Home Learning

At the time of sending this newsletter, we hope that our children and families are enjoying the half-term break and have stepped away from online learning or paper packs in order to rest and relax.

Learning should resume again from Monday 8th June onwards, however our reopening plans (as shared with you at length in last week's newsletter) require us to move to different arrangements for our home learning offer to children.

- All children in Reception, Y1 and Y6 have the offer of a place in school from the week beginning 8th June onwards. **We encourage pupils to take up this offer.** Pupils in other year groups will continue learning at home.
- Children in school will be working from a timetable of work which will cover the period of six weeks until the end of the summer term.
- **We will not be using the Seesaw Learning Platform for the remainder of the Summer Term.**
- Children who have had paper packs will continue to have paper packs.
- In Years 3, 4, and 5 pupils will receive information about their timetable of work from school via a Groupcall message
- **ALL** Year 2 children will have a pack of work for the next six weeks.

We kindly request that paper packs for all Y2 children and those children in Years 3, 4 and 5 who have been working in this way previously **are collected from the school office between Wednesday 3rd June and Friday 5th June. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL SCHOOL HAS REOPENED ON 9TH JUNE TO COLLECT THE PACKS AS THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL NOT BE OPEN.** Communication with school from this date will be via telephone or email **ONLY**.

Partial reopening plans

Last week, we shared a lot of information via this newsletter regarding our reopening plans. This week, we are providing a summary of the key information regarding our ongoing reopening plans.

This is what has been happening **this week** (25th – 29th May):

- Staff have been in school preparing the classrooms for reopening. The classrooms do look very different to how they would normally look but this is in line with government guidelines.
- Teaching staff have also been in school preparing teaching materials, lessons and activities for the Year Groups that are due to return – Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as well as planning and preparing home learning tasks for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- Our reopening plan, risk assessment documents, timetables and staffing structure are being considered by the Trust Board and we are awaiting final approval.
- Signage, PPE and Cleaning Materials have been ordered and are due to be delivered to school next week. The signage will ensure that all parents and children can be safely directed into school each day.

This is what we are planning to do **next week** (1st – 5th June):

- Send out copies of: Our Reopening Plan and A Parents' Guide to Returning to School, staggered start and finish times and drop off and collection points to parents of children in UFS, Y1 and Y6. These will also be published on our website.
- Contact, by telephone, the parents of our UFS, Y1 and Y6 children to discuss our plans and to answer any questions, queries or concerns you might have.
- Take delivery of signage, PPE and cleaning materials. Put signage up around school – externally and internally – so that parents and children can be directed safely and swiftly to their drop off points when they return to school.
- Equip each 'bubble' with cleaning materials ready for use each day when school reopens.
- Ask parents of children in Years 2, 3, 4 or 5 who intend to continue accessing learning via paper-based packs to collect these from the school office between Wednesday 3rd and Friday 5th June.

Looking further ahead... **Week beginning Monday 8th June:**

- All staff will be in school on Monday 8th June to receive extensive guidance and training on how school will operate going forward.
- From Tuesday 9th June we hope to welcome back our UFS children, followed by our Y1 and Y6 children from Thursday 11th June.
- School will close at lunchtime on a Friday. This will enable staff to plan and prepare resources and classrooms ready for the following week.

Provision for Key Worker's Children and Vulnerable Groups

Provision for children of parents who are critical key workers (parents whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response) **remains unchanged**. This provision will operate every day. **However, children in UFS, Y1 and Y6 should not attend this provision once school reopens to these year groups**. We will continue to ask parents who are critical workers to provide us with a letter of proof from their employer when they request a place for childcare provision. Parents should only use this provision **when there is no other alternative**.

Free School Meals Assistance

If your financial circumstances have changed as a result of the impact of Covid-19, you may be eligible to claim for free school meals. Please visit our website homepage and use the two links to download a Free School Meals Application Form and accompanying Transparency Notice if you would like to submit an application.

As has been the case for the past two months, there is a lot of information to read in this communication with parents and there will be even more to share with you next week.

Wishing all of our families a relaxing weekend – enjoy the sunshine!