



St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School

Nurturing Hearts and Minds

Monday 8th June 2020

Dear Parents

Return to School

Many of you will have heard on the news already that LCC is advising against schools opening on the 15th June.

Message from Edwina Grant OBE

Executive Director Education and Children's Services

I am writing to let you know that our Director of Public Health has reviewed his guidance that schools should not welcome more pupils and has determined that it should not change.

That means Dr Sakthi Karunanithi is advising that you should continue to delay reopening to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. It is still the case that he believes two of the five government tests are not being met in the county.

Although the number of new cases has decreased, Lancashire and the North West has a high number of cases compared to many other regions in the country.

Similarly, although the weekly death count in Lancashire is showing a downward trend, a consistent decline is not being seen in all areas, and in recent weeks we have seen an increase. It has also been widely reported that the R value for the North West is above 1. Locally, all partners are working closely in the development of our local response to support Test and Trace.

Although some progress has been made, more work needs to be done to properly embed local expertise into the national NHS Test and Trace system.

Lancashire people have worked so hard throughout the pandemic in keeping the virus at bay. With various national lock down measures lifting, we need to remain vigilant in following social distancing rules to help prevent the infection spreading.

This advice will be reviewed again next Monday, and if it changes, we will encourage you to take the decision to reopen to more pupils from 22 June if deemed safe to do so.

I am sure that the national blanket approach to relaxing the social distancing is working against us and it is frustrating us as much as it frustrating you. We have worked so hard to make school as safe as we possibly can and the relaxation seems to make a mockery of our efforts and all of your efforts to keep safe at home. However, we must all continue to do what we can to minimise the spread of this virus and not risk passing it on to our more vulnerable family members and friends. Please continue to do what you can and not give into the temptation of giving in because others are. We have not been set a good example by government but we can still set a good example to others.

Zoom lessons?

We have been asked by a couple of parents to consider doing Zoom lessons. I am afraid it is me, not the teachers who is saying no to this. My reasons are twofold; Firstly it is going against union





guidance from a safeguarding perspective. Zoom does give access into all pupils' (and the teacher's) homes for all participants on the call. Were there to be a safeguarding incident, this could place the teacher and the school in a very difficult position. Teachers have permission to do a Zoom class meet which will be more of a catch up meet with a focus on emotional wellbeing and worship. There must always be at least two members of staff on the meet. My second reason is that teachers are working flat out as it is; they are all having to plan new ways for pupils to access learning, mark and provide feedback. This is all new to them and takes longer than planning normal lessons in school. They are also in school preparing the building for when we return (we have a few nice surprises planned as well as the social distancing measures). They are also all helping to teach and care for the key worker and vulnerable children in school.

<h1>Shout Out Wall</h1>	
Reception	Abigail Caddens Annabel Scales
Year 1	Nyla Queen Hugo Hamer
Year 2	Albi Pickering Dylan Hoban Artur Lesniewski
Year 3	Scarlet Holmes for fantastic work on Ancient Egypt. Harriet Clarke for an interesting book review. Harvey Watkins for a super letter to Horrid Henry.
Year 4	Aleksandra Lesniewska for a fantastic piece of writing about her perfect Afterlife. William Walker for a fantastic piece of writing about his perfect Afterlife.
Year 5	Conor McMullan for an informative piece of writing about his favourite chocolate bar. Lydia Carthy for gathering and presenting data about the favourite chocolate treats of people in her family.
Year 6	Ethan Swarbrick Erin Curran

I am sorry that some reasons are missing here. My communication to staff at fault here I think.





Zoom Assembly

Thank you to everyone who joined me for the first Zoom assembly this morning. It was lovely to see their little smiling faces and next time I hope to enjoy it more when I am less nervous. Lesson learned, I am not going to try and share a Powerpoint next time. We will make this a regular feature at 10am every Monday morning. I really wanted to share a video with the children. It is too big to put on Parentmail so I will put on the school Facebook page.

Key Worker Children

At the moment care is available from 7.30-6.0pm at school. Before and after school care will be now charged at our usual rates. Becky will prepare your bills for you. Our number of children of key workers has grown by 50% after half term so we have had to split the group and staff it accordingly. This is because the key workers who have managed to care at home to this point can no longer do so. We are also putting more structure to the sessions so that all children get access to the computers at some part of the day to access their home learning. Can we ask that the children now arrive before 9.15am? There are some who have been coming in later (which we allowed previously) but are missing their opportunity for home learning which is not ideal. Thank you.

Take care of each other and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gallagher

Jesus let your light shine though in all we think and say and do.

