



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

Telephone: 01924 423220

Website: www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C Moulding

Deputy Headteacher: Miss J Smith

Email: office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk

23.06.20

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are all well at this difficult and challenging time.

Following the government announcement last week that schools will not be bringing all year groups back full time before the summer holidays, the governors and I have been revisiting the wider offer arrangements that are currently in place.

As you know, we were very sad to be unable to make a wider offer to our Year 6 pupils due to a number of factors:

- Our pupil admission number of 35 for each year group has meant we have needed three bubble groups, three classrooms and three lots of staff for each year group offer;
- The number of classrooms available for use;
- Very high numbers of Critical Key Worker families with children needing to access childcare in school;
- Staffing availability and numbers of staff needed for the current offer.

As we approach the end of our academic year we are very mindful of the wellbeing and needs of our Year 6 pupils who have spent seven years at St Patrick's and MUST be given the opportunity to say farewell to their class friends, especially as they are all transitioning to many High Schools and not just one or two, the staff who have loved, cared for and educated them for seven years and of course the school that has helped them to grow and flourish ready for their next steps. I know all parents will have an empathy and understanding with how much the opportunity to say goodbye properly will mean to the pupils and their families and if it was your child you would want that too. It is vitally important we ensure this transitional time of leaving Primary school to go to High School is as good as possible for their wellbeing, in this most difficult and challenging time.

The governors and I have therefore made the decision that the wider offer for our Reception and Year 1 pupils in this academic year will finish on Tuesday 14th July at the end of the school day, in order to be able **to give our Year 6 pupils a very small offer of the last three days of the school year – Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th July.**

The Year 6 pupils will need to be in three bubble groups and each having the same opportunities across the three days for planned leavers activities, these will hopefully include:

- A special liturgy for each bubble independently – led by the bubble adults and Miss Smith also including Father Eamonn and Mrs Moulding by virtual means;





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- A special leavers lunch, each bubble independently, one each day in the hall;
- Memory based activities recalling special events across their life at St Patrick's;
- Transition tasks to raise confidence and prepare them for their new journeys;
- A socially distanced gathering on the field – each bubble in a marked out zone doing circle style activities;
- The opportunity to receive a leavers gift, leavers certificate and final end of year report in paper form;
- The very important chance to say goodbye, in school on that very last day of their Primary years.

These are all very important in trying to give our Year 6 pupils as positive an end to their time at St Patrick's and hopefully one that they can remember with a smile in the years to come.

All non-critical key worker pupils in Reception and Year 1 will therefore have their final day of the school year on Tuesday 14th July. Our two critical worker bubbles – circles and squares, along with the critical key worker pupils in Reception and Year 1, who have accessed the childcare provision prior to the wider offer, will be able to come to school for those three final days IF no other arrangements can be made. However, I do ask politely that you try to make those arrangements to give the school staff the opportunity to focus on the Year 6s in their final three days.

I am currently working with the staff team to make a transition plan for all pupils across school as we are not able to run the usual transition sessions to prepare pupils for the new school year. I am working hard to design a plan to support all our pupils across each year group as effectively as possible both during the end of this year and overlapping into the start of the next academic year. As soon as this plan is confirmed I will write to you once again with an explanation.

I am also working on the initial plans for how September might look in school. I am very happy to hear the government aim is to have all pupils back in school and await the guidance documents which are due to be released in a couple of weeks to ensure my initial plans are aligned with that guidance. Here at St Patrick's, our pupil admission number of 35 has proved very problematic when designing offers which enable the protective measures to be effective and risk assessments to be agreed – I truly hope this does not continue to prove problematic into the new academic year. As soon as I have aligned my plans with the guidance and had them approved by Governors, the Local Authority and Diocese of Leeds, I will inform you – let us hope and pray it is a full opening of our wonderful school at last!





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Can I please take this opportunity to thank the whole school family for the understanding you have shown to school and the arrangements that the governors and I have had to put in place to keep your wonderful children, your families and our staff as safe as possible during this pandemic. This has certainly not been the first year of headship at St Patrick's Catholic Primary I had envisaged when I began back in September! However, it must be stated that I have found it a privilege to work with such amazing pupils, families, staff and governors and I hope next year we can continue the journey we have just begun and it will prove to be slightly more straight forward for us all.

I look forward to sharing my plans for supporting transition, when to expect your child's end of year report and the arrangements for the new academic year as soon as possible.

With kind regards

Mrs Clare Moulding

Headteacher

