

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

## **PARTIAL RE-OPENING OF ST. ANDREW'S**

I hope that you are all well and coping as best you can during these difficult times.

I am now writing to you to update all parents and carers on our plans for re-opening St. Andrew's. ***The government has stated that we should begin to prepare to open for children in Reception class, Year 1 and Year 6 ONLY. For children in those year groups school will re-open on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.***

***However, please note that this date is subject to change and will depend on our country meeting the 5 tests as set out by the Government. It could be 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 or it could be later.***

For pupils in other year groups the government have advised that schools may open late in the Summer term, but this will depend on scientific advice. We will continue to keep you informed and up to date through the usual channels.

### **Attendance at School**

Our main priority, as always, is the safety of all our staff and children. We are really looking forward to seeing the children back in school before the end of the Summer term, but only if it is safe for the children, their parents and families.

Parents are being encouraged by the Government to bring their eligible children back to school, unless they, or a member of their household, fall into one of the medically vulnerable groups or need to self-isolate. Children who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions must continue to shield. I do not expect these children to come to school.

***To this end, I would like you to consider carefully whether you wish your child to return to school in June.*** There are many things for you to consider including how you travel to school, who is still at home and whether you have to return to work. ***Parents will not be fined for not sending their child to school.*** We will contact the parents of eligible children in Reception class, Y1 and Y6 directly by telephone from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May to discuss whether you intend to send your child back to school in June so that we can plan accordingly.

If you decide not to send your child into school at this stage, then we will continue to support each child with a programme of home learning.

### **Safety of our Children and Staff**

To ensure the safety of our staff and children when school re-opens we will strictly follow the government guidance. In doing so, however, there will be much change for children, teachers and parents. Our school opening and closing times, routines and procedures will be very different to ensure social distancing measures and to minimise infection.

I would like to set out below, in brief, some of the measures we will be taking. A more detailed risk assessment will be produced and further information shared with parents before school opens.

### **Infection Protection and Control**

- We will continue to implement extra cleaning measures and classrooms will be reorganised to ensure all surfaces are clear for daily cleaning.
- We will minimise contact and mixing as far as possible.
- We will implement frequent hand-washing routines and good respiratory hygiene practices.

### **Class Sizes**

- We will organise children in to small groups of no more than 15.
- The organisation of these groups will not change, as far as possible.
- This means that some children will not be taught by their usual teacher or in their usual classroom.

### **Changes to School Routines and Timing of the Day**

- The school week will finish at 1pm every Friday. This is to ensure that teachers receive their statutory time for planning and preparation. It will also provide the opportunity for a deeper clean at the end of each week.
- We expect to have a school lunch service when we re-open. Lunch times will be staggered to ensure we keep to the social distancing guidance.
- Start times, break times, lunch times and pick up times will change. This is essential to ensure social distancing measures. For example, it will no longer be possible to start or end the school day at the same time for all classes as we will not be able to have all parents and children arriving at or leaving school together. We will provide you with more information about timings as soon as we are able.
- Parents will not be permitted to enter the school site and will have to adhere to social distancing measures.
- There will be none of our usual family events, assemblies or other activities until further notice.
- There will be no breakfast club or after school clubs.

Finally, I understand these are extraordinary times for all of us. May I take the opportunity to say thank you for all that you are doing to support your children's learning at home and to say thank you for your continued support for our team. It has been good to stay in touch with you during lockdown, whether it be a phone call, text or email.

I hope that you recognise that all our staff have been working extremely hard to provide quality on-line learning for our children and childcare for our most vulnerable families and key workers. I cannot thank them enough for their willingness, their dedication to our school community and most of all their love and support for our children. They really are a fantastic team and I am immensely proud of them and all of our St. Andrew's extended family.

I will continue to keep you updated as and when more information is available.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Mitchell  
Executive Headteacher