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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
We are children of God: we achieve, believe and care.

20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our communications earlier this week either by text, email or telephone. We fully understand how difficult this time is for parents and appreciate that the idea of returning your child to school, when there are so many unanswered questions, is a difficult one to commit to. We thank you for your swift responses and fully respect and support any decision you have made and continue to make in the coming weeks. Your decision this week may change as more information is given, and we accept this.

During the May half term (Monday 25th May –Friday 29th May) some essential maintenance work will be taking place throughout the main school to facilitate the eventual installation of a new fire alarm over Summer. It has become increasingly apparent that follow up work and deep cleaning, after this essential maintenance, will mean school must remain closed the week beginning June 1st.

With the support of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust (formerly the Trinity MAT), a decision has been made to reopen St Joseph's Catholic Primary School no earlier than Monday June 8th. We will, of course, await the government announcement on Friday 29th May which may delay our opening beyond Monday 8th June. As you know, government guidelines are changing so we will continue to give you regular updates.

Our school will continue to support Key Workers from Monday 1st June. Should your child need to access our childcare provision after half term, please email enquiries@wsj.org.uk with 'Key Worker' as the title by Wednesday 27th May at the latest so staffing arrangements can be made and further information given.

However, in order to support parents in making an informed decision about our potential reopening on Monday June 8th, I have decided to share some key parts of the reopening plan.

- *Staggered arrival and departure times to reduce footfall on site
- *One way system clearly marked for drop off and pick up
- *Reduced pupil numbers (less than 15 in a classroom/half a year group)
- *To support some normality, children to be taught in their familiar classroom with their familiar class teacher
- *The curriculum will focus on the key basic skills of mathematics, reading and writing alongside teaching of hygiene routines and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- *There will be a huge emphasis on good respiratory and hand hygiene, and the children will be taught and directed to wash their hands regularly.
- *Early closing on Friday to allow a full deep clean of used classrooms between use by different groups.



So that we can apply the necessary actions to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible, the following strategy for grouping the children will apply:

Nursery	Children will be grouped into Group A and Group B .
Reception	Children will be grouped into Group A and Group B .
Year 1	Children will be grouped into Group A and Group B .
Year 6	Children will be grouped into Group A and Group B
Children of key workers	Children will be supervised by a teacher and attend when necessary

Group A and **Group B** children will alternate weeks, with each group attending for one week at a time. (Please note, siblings will be allocated to the same group.)

Group A children will attend school on the week beginning Monday 8th June and alternate weeks thereafter.

Group B children will attend school on the week beginning Monday 15th June and alternate weeks thereafter.

Children of key workers will be taught with their year group during their scheduled weeks.

The arrival and departure times are as follows:

Year group	Arrival	Departure	Friday Departure Time
Nursery	8.45am	11.30am	11.30am
Reception	9.15am	2.45pm	12.15pm
Year 1	9.00am	3.00pm	12.30pm
Year 6	8.50am	3.15pm	12.45pm
Children of Key Workers	8.40am	3.25pm	3.15pm

School will be closed by 12.45pm each Friday to allow for a deep clean after each group and to allow staff time to plan, set and/or review online learning tasks for children attending school and at home.

Please be assured that these are just a small number of key actions St Joseph's is taking to ensure our children, parents and staff remain as safe as possible.

There is a great deal for you to consider and we understand these are difficult decisions to make in a time of such uncertainty but please know that we fully support you in whatever you decide.

Please note that in terms of attendance, the government have stated that there will be no fines for non-attendance and it will not impact on personal attendance levels.

Please bear with us as you can imagine attempts to navigate through this uncharted territory is very challenging and we may change arrangements along the way but as always, our first and foremost priority will be the safety and well being of our staff and our wonderful children.

Further information on our reopening will be released from Monday 1st June, after the Government's announcement.

Thank you for your patience, your ongoing support and consideration.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you and your families during this challenging time.

With kindest regards.

Mrs Black,

Headteacher