

---

Village Lane  
Washington  
Tyne & Wear  
NE38 7HU



Telephone: (0191) 917 2484  
Email: [enquiries@wsj.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wsj.org.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs J Black

---

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

18.05.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Government announcement on 10<sup>th</sup> May about the potential wider opening of schools to some pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> June, we have been giving careful consideration to how we can achieve this. This has included scrutiny of the many documents published throughout the week by the Department for Education, as well as discussion with our colleagues from our partner schools within our Academy Trust.

Our Academy Trust have provided the following statement:

*"The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust Board of Directors want to assure all families that all of our schools and staff are working hard to ensure that your child is not only provided with the possible support, guidance and provision during these very unsettled times but is also kept safe and well. The Head Teacher of each school has completed a Trust wide Risk Assessment, designed to reflect the individual needs and circumstances of each school. Our Head Teachers, with the full support of the Board, will be making decisions and plans about what happens in each school on a day-to-day basis based on their own information, requirements and provision."*

There has been much speculation and debate in the media on the benefits and concerns about bringing more children back into school by this target date, and the challenge it is presenting to us all cannot be underestimated. There is a balance which needs to be found between ensuring measures are put in place to limit as far as is possible the risk of transmission of the virus, and ensuring that our children still feel safe, secure and 'at home' in our schools. There is also the responsibility we have towards ensuring our staff are kept as safe as possible too.

As has been acknowledged by Government, it is not possible to guarantee social distancing of 2m between our children, or between the children and the staff. We can, and will, put measures in place which encourage this, but there will be times when children need first aid, care and comfort. They will want to be close to their friends. This needs to be understood and accepted in a primary school setting by all those with children attending.

We have carried out a comprehensive risk assessment to try and achieve this balance, which will be shared with parents later this week. We will plan to welcome some pupils back when it is deemed safe to do so, in a way which best meets the needs of the pupils in our school, and we will communicate this with you as soon as is possible.

To assist with finalising our plan, I would appreciate it if you could let me know as soon as possible whether you will be opting to send your child to school in June/July, if your child's class is invited to attend. (Currently the Government has identified Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils).



The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales under company registration number 7890590. Registered Office: Old Durham Road, Gateshead, NE9 6RZ

You will receive a text message from school, which will ask you to state your preference from the list below.

Please reply to the text message with your child's name, year group and one of the following letters to indicate your decision.

If you have more than one child attending our school, please reply individually for each of your children.

Alternatively, please e-mail your decision, along with your child(ren)'s name(s) and year group(s) to [enquiries@wsj.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wsj.org.uk) with 'Phased return' as the title of your email.

**A:** My child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and I **will** be sending them to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June (as earliest possible start date)

**B:** My child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and I **will not** be sending them to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June (as earliest possible start date)

For those children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5:

**C:** **I will be** sending my child to school if the offer is widened to other year groups before the summer holidays

**D:** **I will not be** sending my child to school if the offer is widened to other year groups before the summer holidays.

Please ensure you give your child's name and year group in your message.

Our arrangements for key worker children remains the same. Should your circumstances change and you need a key worker child place in the childcare provision please email [enquiries@wsj.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wsj.org.uk) with 'Key Worker' as the title of your email.

Thank you for your patience, your ongoing support and consideration. If you would like to discuss anything further please do get in touch: Mrs Black: 07391 521779 or Mr O'Keeffe: 07951 889867 or e-mail [enquiries@wsj.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wsj.org.uk)

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

With kindest regards

Mrs Black,  
Headteacher