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Headteacher: Mrs J Potter



15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

POSSIBLE PHASED RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS – JUNE 2020

You will be aware that the government has suggested that we may be able to welcome back more children to school from the week commencing 1 June 2020. The government are still saying that this will only happen provided that the programmes set out in the recovery strategy are operating effectively, the five key tests are met and the rate of infection is decreasing.

The government has indicated that, even after 1<sup>st</sup> June, with potentially expanding numbers of pupils attending school, the main priority will remain:

- Vulnerable children
- Children of key workers – (the key workers defined list remains the same as was published in March 2020)

The government has stated that schools would then need to consider children in other year groups with priority being given to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

They have published guidance as to how the risks can be assessed and managed, including some of the following examples.

- Social distancing would need to be maintained as far as possible and so group size would be limited to a maximum of 15. This may need to be smaller based on the size and layout of classrooms and working spaces.
- Groups of children would also be kept separate at all times during the school day and there should be no mixing of the groups. This is to try to stem the spread of any infection.

Clearly this presents a number of challenges for us at St. Chad's.

- We would not have rooms/spaces available for all our keyworkers' children, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils in group sizes of less than 15, each with an individual member of staff.
- The layout of our school, narrow corridors and access points all present a number of difficulties to facilitate social distancing.

We are currently working to plan what a potential future phased re-opening may look like and the logistics and challenges this will involve. We need to assess very carefully to what extent it is possible to increase the number of pupils attending and the risks of expanding provision for any year group.

Our priority will always be the health, safety and well-being of children, families and our staff team. Risk assessments are currently being carried out to maximise safety.

(continued overleaf)

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Any phased return will be managed with extreme caution so that all necessary protective measures can be put in place. Therefore, it is likely that a gradual approach would be adopted where a year group at a time would return.

**As parents you need to be aware that, with the current guidance in place, it will not be possible for all children in all year groups identified by the government to be back in school in June.**

## **POTENTIAL PLAN GOING FORWARD**

It is anticipated that at St Chad's we will not be expanding our numbers until after our official May half term holiday ie from the week commencing Monday, 8th June 2020. Current arrangements for the children of key workers will remain in place until the 8th June.

- Week beginning Monday 18th May – child care provision at St Chad's
- Week beginning Monday, 25th May – child care provision at St Hilda's – with the exception of Bank Holiday Monday for children of keyworkers at St Hilda's, St Chad's and Carleton Green.
- Week beginning Monday, 1st June – child care provision at St Chad's for the full week
- From the 8th June 2020 – the main focus will be to provide places for priority groups, i.e. vulnerable children and children of key workers as defined on the March 2020 list.

Those parents who were allocated places by agreement with myself as Headteacher, will be contacted early next week in order to ascertain whether or not school provision will be required from the 1st June – regardless of year group at this stage. Thankfully many key workers have been able to keep their children at home and this has helped to keep us all safe here in school.

It is important to emphasize:

We WILL NOT be able to provide a school place for children whose parents are not key workers as specified on the original DfE LIST (March 2020). We will keep very strictly to guidelines on this and all decisions will be taken by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Thereafter – to consider to what extent it is possible to further increase the number of pupils attending (Reception, Year 1, Year 6) and in what order these will be able to return to school.

There is a lot more guidance being published daily, which we will consider carefully with regard to our particular context. We know that you wouldn't want your children to return to school unless procedures to keep children and adults safe were effective.

We will inform you of any decisions made as soon as we can.

In the meantime, may we thank you for your patience and continued support both for us as a school and also for the support you are providing for your children.

Staff keep me informed of what a fantastic job you are doing!

We hope that you continue to keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs Jan Potter* – Headteacher

*Reverend Martin Keighley* – Chair of Governors