

**ST.GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
GORDON ROAD
ENFIELD
EN2 OQA**

Dear Parents,

Phased re-opening of schools

You will doubtless have learnt much in recent weeks of the government's plans for the gradual re-opening of schools, including the publication of varying information on an almost daily basis and the reactions of various interest groups. I can assure you that the staff and governors of St.George's School share in your frustration and uncertainty about the demands being made upon us.

Our school has, of course, continued to welcome some pupils since the beginning of lockdown some two months ago, those who are vulnerable and those whose parents are key workers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire staff of St.George's for their continuing commitment to our community during this challenging period, with special appreciation of all that has been done to provide online resources for pupils working at home and to maintain contact with those who have special needs. At the same time, considerable thought has gone into planning for our eventual return to normal (or is it to be "the new normal"?) especially by Mr.O'Rourke and his senior leadership team.

The current focus of our attention is the government announcement that it hopes to have schools re-open for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in June. Whether this proves to be one of those targets that changes in the light of scientific advice remains to be seen but the very fact that there is an element of flexibility in the announcement means that it is impossible to give you total certainty about our plans for June and onwards, although we will be in contact with you at the earliest opportunity.

You will, I hope, be reassured to know that in all of our work, our principal concern is to reach a stage where risks of infection are as low as reasonably possible. However, that aim affects virtually all aspects of school life, particularly as we interpret the demands of social distancing on both staff and pupils. Among the key problems that we face is the impact on our teachers, the spacing of our pupils, the cleaning of the school on a more frequent basis, the provision of school meals and the fact that pupils may be expected to remain in the same small groups ("bubbles") for the whole day with their nominated teacher.

What is certain is that we at St.George's will endeavour to keep our standards as high as ever but that there will definitely be changes in the daily routines that we follow. I feel confident that our community strength will remain as it always has been and that we will eventually emerge from our current uncertainties.

May Almighty God continue to protect us and give us the strength we need to cope with the challenges we all face.

Take care of yourselves,

Michael Blundell

(Chairman of Governors)