



LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD



MR P. O'ROURKE *BA (Hons), NPQH, MA*
Headteacher

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
GORDON ROAD, ENFIELD
EN2 0QA

E-mail: office@st-georges.enfield.sch.uk
Website: www.st-georges.enfield.sch.uk

Tel: 020 8363 3729
Fax: 020 8367 2275

Monday 1 June 2020

Dear parents,

I wrote to you recently outlining the strategy for the phased return of children to school at St George's. The plan was conditional on a number of factors as we are facing unprecedented challenges and we cannot afford to make rash decisions because of the potential consequences. We are very much looking forward to the children returning to school, but we cannot allow that to happen until we are confident that we have done as much as we can to keep everyone safe.

Unfortunately, the provisional dates have needed to be altered meaning that our plan to start reception children will now happen on **Monday 15 June** at the earliest. A large amount of planning is being done to ensure the safety of children and staff alike, this involves preparing the school site adequately, holding appropriate consultations with staff and governors and risk assessments being approved by all stakeholders and the local authority. As stated previously, the intention is to make the return careful and controlled and to minimise any risk posed to children, staff and parents.

Once the reception children whose parents have indicated that they require a place have started and we are confident that the safety measures are sufficient, then we will plan for the next year group to start school. This will be either year 1 or year 6.

Until this time, our school will remain closed, the exception being children of critical workers.

A previous letter to parents outlined how different school will look and feel for the children, and I have once again included this information for your reference. The phased return will not be a resumption of school as we know it. This is vital for parents to be aware of in order to prepare children adequately for returning to school.



How will the children be organised?

Drop-off and Pick-up

We will be operating a one way system on site for drop off and pick-up. Please follow staff directions at all times and adhere to social distancing guidance.

- Entrance to the school site will be via Gordon Road and exit will be via Halifax Road, following a strict one way system.
- Only one adult per child permitted
- Drop-off and Pick-up will be staggered in order to ensure we are able to maintain social distancing. You will have an allocated drop-off and pick-up time.
- Allocated times cannot be changed. If you miss your slot you will have to wait until the end of the drop off/pick up cycle.
- Do not arrive/queue early. Wait for your group to be called at the allocated time. Please do not congregate in groups at the school gate.
- There will be a strict one way system in place in the playgrounds. Staff and signage will direct you through the playground. There will be a drop off zone to hand over your child.
 - Please do not leave the cordoned off area.
 - Please do not stop to chat to staff.
 - Please maintain a 2m distance between yourself and the next parent and child.
- You and your child will need to use the hand sanitising stations in the playground upon entry each morning/afternoon.
- At pick –up time you will be directed to where to queue for your child upon entering the playground.
- You will not be able to speak to the class teacher in person. Please continue to communicate with teachers by emailing or phoning the school office.
- The Cheviot Road entrance will remain closed. Children **must not** be dropped off at the school office. Should you need to speak to school staff please do so via phone/email.

Travel to and from school

- We recommend parents and children walk to school where possible, and following the recommendations from Transport for London, to avoid public transport where possible. We would also ask you to avoid car sharing/pooling during this time. This will also help reduce congestion at pick-up and drop-off time.
- We will be unable to store scooters at this time. If using to travel to school parents must take them home each morning.

The School Day

- Children will be supervised in groups of 11 max.

- Groups will not mix during the school day. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to facilitate this. Each group will have sole use of the playground for break, lunch and outside learning. There will be a timetable for staff to facilitate this.
- Children will have the same adult(s) in their room each day. It is not possible to ensure that the teacher will be their usual classroom teacher, so it is highly likely that they will be taught by another teacher.
- Handwashing facilities will be available in each classroom.
- Children will notify staff if they need to use the bathroom and will be monitored in the corridor, to ensure social distancing and handwashing. Only one pupil at a time will access the toilets.
- Activities will be tailored to meet the needs of the pupils. New routines and rules will need to be established
- Activities which support re-integration, pupil safety and mental health & wellbeing will be our priority. We will not be following the national curriculum initially and will gradually introduce Maths and English activities revising topics already covered this year.
- Lunches will be provided by the schools meal service. Children will eat in their classroom. Children may choose to bring a packed lunch from home.

Uniform and Clothing

- Pupils can return to uniform (we are now wearing summer uniform), this is preferable yet optional.
- All clothing, personal choice or uniform, should be changed and washed daily.
- Children will not be asked to bring PE kit to school.
- Children should wear trainers to school to allow for physical activities outside
- Sun cream, if required, should be applied before school. Children may be spending time more outside than usual and should wear a cap/ sunhat.
- Children may bring a small hand sanitiser if you wish.

Personal Belongings

On the first day of school we would ask children to bring

1. A story /novel/reading for pleasure book from home, labelled with your child's name. This will stay in school and not be returned home each day.
2. A new, unopened small pack of colouring pencils, labelled with your child's name. If you have any difficulty in finding these, please let us know.

Pupils should not bring personal items to school other than those named above.

- No school bags. Children should only bring their lunch box/bag and coat, if inclement weather.
- No pencil cases. School will provide required equipment.
- No toys from home, including for example, Rubik's cubes, small cars, dolls and action figures.
- Children will not be able to bring comforters or cuddly toys.

- We will be unable to store scooters at this time.
- We will not be sending home homework or reading books.

Key Worker Competition

I am delighted to announce the winner of the key workers competition as Hannah Joy Driver, with the runners up being Max Markiewicz and Lexi Chambi. The activity was organised by Chamberlains Estate Agents and raised an amazing £340 for the Enfield Food Bank. Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to the winners.

Winner - Cake Design Hannah Joy Driver 5S

Runners up - Max Markiewicz RDC & Lexi Chambi 6S

Thought of the week

God made our beautiful world for us to live in.
We all need to look after our world.

Five years ago Pope Francis wrote an encyclical which is an open letter to everyone on this planet. The Pope called this encyclical: Laudato Si' which means 'Praise be to you'. Laudato Si' discusses the damage being inflicted on the Earth by humans and calls on 'every person living on this planet' to make urgent changes to our lifestyles. Laudato Si' is over one hundred pages. CAFOD has made an animation to help explain and communicate the message of Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si' to children, and to inspire them to take action.

This week launches celebrations of the encyclical Laudato Si'. This will be a year-long journey of transformation, as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting, and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow. The Pope has invited everyone to join him in prayer on Sunday 24th May to pray for 'Our Common Home'.

Prayer

Today's prayer is from CAFOD:

Your loving care

Lord Jesus,
when you walked with us on earth
you spread your healing power.
We place in your loving care
all who are affected by Coronavirus.
Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.
Bring relief to our sick,
console our bereaved,
protect those who care for us.
We lift our prayer to you Lord,
and trust in your infinite mercy,
as we wait for the daybreak.
Amen.

I would like to conclude this newsletter by thanking Mrs Williams for all her diligent work in keeping the Catholic Life of the School page of DB Primary so engaging during May, the month of Our Lady. We will keep all our school families in our prayers as we begin the process of adjusting our lives as the lockdown is eased and we adjust to a new and as yet unknown normality.

Yours Sincerely,
Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher