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Dear parents,

We are busy making our final preparations to admit our reception children to school next week. It has been an incredibly time consuming and difficult task to get to this stage and I would like to thank parents for their patience, particularly in light of our frustrating but entirely necessary delay. Unfortunately, the challenges that we are facing have no precedent and we need to ensure that the school is as safe an environment for pupils and staff as we can possibly make it. Today's concession by government that the wider opening of the school is unlikely to happen illustrates how unrealistic this original aim was, as many of the other expectations placed on schools at the time.

One of the major tasks that has needed to be undertaken was the risk assessment for school reopening. This is now complete and is available for parents to view on the school website and can be found by following 'school information > coronavirus information'. It should prove reassuring to those of you who have stated that you wish your child to return to school that all potential risks have been considered and that we have made the school as safe as we can during this uncertain time.

Mass

I have been informed that Cardinal Nichols has agreed to live stream a Mass for all pupils and staff week beginning 15th June. If we receive more details we will communicate them to you.

Diversity

Events that have dominated the news recently have prompted some of the teachers to discuss the issue of diversity with the children, a value that we hold so dear to us at St George's. I was very taken with this lovely piece of work that the junior key worker class produced last week. We pray for all those affected by George Floyd's death, for peace and for equality, and reflect on the importance of the message that our children have communicated through their work.





Home School Agreement

Our school 'Positive Behaviour Policy' has been reviewed and an addendum has been included to reflect the new behaviour rules that will have to be implemented in school in order to maintain everyone's safety. This will be available to view online by following 'parent information > coronavirus information'. One important aspect of this is the new home-school agreement that we require each parent to read through and sign before children can return to school. Parents will be issued with the agreement in advance of their child returning to school. Unfortunately, children will not be admitted if the agreement has not been signed and returned.

Contact Details

It is imperative that we have the most up to date contact details for our pupils, particularly considering the important nature of the calls that we may have to make to you. If you have changed address or mobile phone recently, please ensure that you inform the school office. Each child should have at least three nominated contacts. If you are a reception parent and you have informed us that you intend your child will be returning to school, even if on a limited basis, please ensure that your details are up to date as soon as possible.

DB Primary

Now that more and more staff are required on the school site to prepare the school, and certainly once children begin to be admitted, the work that we set the children on DB Primary will change. We will provide you with more details in the near future, but it is very likely that you will see the level of interaction between the teacher and your child reduce. We have been delighted by the successful way that the children have accessed DB Primary and how it has allowed learning to continue remotely and we thank parents for engaging so positively with it and being so supportive of our work at school.

Prayer

Today's prayer is from Christian Aid:

A prayer before silence

Loving God,
we seek your presence
in the silence beyond words
looking to you for comfort,
strength, protection and reassurance
breathing with gratitude
holding on to hope
trusting with faith
that you are still God
in the midst of the turmoil
and that your love reaches
to the ends of the earth.
Be present with us now.
(Silence)
Amen.



I would like to conclude this newsletter by thanking the whole school community for the way in which this crisis has been dealt with so positively. As we move into the next phase of our journey through this pandemic, we are sure that there will be many challenges ahead, and we are still travelling into the unknown. However, I am confident that we have an excellent foundation for continuing the journey together. We are trying as hard as we can in school to provide the safest environment within our means and planning to make the learning as engaging as we can within the restrictions that we face. We know that the support that we have received will enable us to be confident that, however different the learning experiences that may emerge, we will receive brilliant support from our wonderful school community.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher