



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

Wednesday 11 June 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing to update you on the phased reopening of St George's School in light of recent government directives.

On Monday we will be welcoming our first groups of Reception children back into school. We are excited to see our pupils although I would like to reassure those parents who prefer to keep their children at home at this time that your decision is understandable and absences will be authorised. We have been busy preparing the school site to make the environment as safe as possible, and I would like particularly to thank Mrs Jones-Owen and the site team for their amazing efforts under such challenging circumstances.

School will look and feel very different for our returning pupils. They have been allocated small groups called 'bubbles' and are very unlikely to be with their usual class teacher and support staff. They will also not be allowed to mix with children from other bubbles. The school day will also be structured differently, with specific start/finish times being issued for each bubble and school closing early on Friday for additional cleaning to take place.

We pray for our children as they resume their schooling and the adults who will be working with them.

Wider School Opening

The Government initially announced their wish for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to restart school from June 1st, and for all primary pupils to be back into school for a month before the summer holidays. It has become clear that this was an unrealistic aim for most schools given the huge variety in their circumstances, and most started to plan for a carefully controlled phased reopening, one year group at a time. Each school faces different challenges. For us, our sheer size and the large amount of parents who indicated that they would like their children to return to school meant that a significant amount of time had to be dedicated to carefully assessing all potential risks. Our risk



assessment document is the result of a huge amount of time and dedication, attempting to leave no stone unturned. It is available for parents to view on the school website: 'parent information > coronavirus information'. We also have a significant number of staff unavailable to teach their classes, and our available teachers also need to cover our key worker classes. We have to ensure that the right level of staffing is in place. It is a very complicated picture!

In order to admit another year group into school, we first need to review the admission of the Reception children, look again at the safety measures in school in the light of experience and ensure that our key worker provision is adequately managed. This has to remain our priority. We can then continue with our plans to open for another year group. We will provide parents with further details as soon as we possibly can.

DB Primary

We have been delighted with the way that DB Primary has worked during the period of school closure, and very thankful for the wonderful support that we have received from parents. In the coming weeks, however, as more teachers are required to be in the school building each day, the nature of the work delivered on the learning platform will be changing. To accommodate smaller class sizes and to provide essential cover, many of our teachers are of necessity being asked to teach in year groups other than their own. This means that they are unable to dedicate sufficient time to administer their class DB Primary page. From next week, there will be just one teacher providing activities for the whole year group. The amount of work provided will be reduced as will the interaction between the teacher and the children. From Monday 15 June, this will be the case for Reception, Year 2 and Year 3. We ask that parents understand our dilemma and are able to explain the changed process to their children.

Mass

Cardinal Nichols will be saying a Mass for pupils and staff on Thursday 18 June at 11.30am. It will be streamed from Westminster Cathedral on churchservices.tv

Prayer

Today's prayer is from Christian Aid:

Love never fails

Even in the darkest moments,
love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus
alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer
with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures
are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes –
around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace,
as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.



I would like to conclude this newsletter by thanking the whole school community for continuing to work with the school and keeping so positive. It remains an incredibly difficult situation with the virus an ever-present threat, despite many restrictions being lifted. We all have to be mindful of our safety throughout our daily lives.

As we begin to admit more pupils into school, we recognise that their experience will be a very different one to the school that they know. We will do all we can to make their school days as warm and welcoming as we can given the restrictions that we face, and make their days as enjoyable and fulfilling as possible. Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher