



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

Friday 10 July 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing to update you on the current situation at St George's School as we approach the end of the school year.

We continue to provide cover for the children of **key workers** and we now have six classes operating each day for them. Our **Reception** children are being taught in five class 'bubbles', and our **year 6** pupils in six bubbles. Coronavirus remains a potent threat in our world, and we must always be vigilant, so please remember to adhere to social distancing rules on and around the school site.

All of our available teachers are now all in school teaching, so we are operating at capacity. I am so disappointed that we have been unable to admit our **year 1** pupils. High demand for current places in school and lack of available staff has prevented us from fulfilling our original intentions.

It would also have been beneficial to readmit all other year groups for some time before the end of term. But again this was sadly prevented by the lack of available staff and the imperative need to uphold safety standards. To achieve this, we would have needed to finish the school year early for pupils already currently in school.

September

We are working towards school being open for all children in September. Many safety measures need to be introduced so some features of the school day will be very different from normal. As social distancing restrictions for children become relaxed, we will once again be able to teach up to 30 children in each class. We are, however, required to organise the children into year group bubbles. This means that children can interact with other children in their bubble without causing concern, but will not be permitted to mix with children from other year group bubbles. One consequence of this will be that each year group will need a staggered start and finish time to the school day. Over



the next week, we will inform you of the specific time that you will be asked to drop off and collect your children, and how this can be managed by parents who have more than one child at the school.

Term Dates

Please note that school will close at **2pm** on **Friday 17 September** for the summer break. The first day of the autumn term for teaching purposes will be **Monday 7 September**, following two teacher training days the preceding week. Term dates can be found on the Parents' Information section of the school website.

Goodbye

We are sadly saying goodbye to three of our valued and talented colleagues this term.

Miss O'Flaherty is retiring from her teaching career. She started working in St George's in 2004 as a reception class teacher. Since then she has worked as a reading recovery teacher and as a wonderful year one teacher. Previous to her time at St George's, Miss O'Flaherty also taught at Raglan Infants after starting her career at the Convent of Jesus and Mary (Willesden) in a nursery class.

Mrs Mary Coleman started in a volunteering role at St George's before working at the school supporting individual children. In subsequent years, she has been a class-based teaching assistant throughout the school meaning that countless children have benefitted from her kind, patient support.

We pray for both Miss O'Flaherty and Mrs Coleman that they may find happiness and fulfilment in their retirement.

Mrs Byrne-Whelehan is known both in her capacity as music lead for our school, and also in her role as creator of the Feith an Cheoil School of Traditional Irish Music. She has been at St George's since 2011 and in addition to teaching inspirational music lessons, is also responsible for the wonderful school band and for her support of the many school events that feature music. We are sad that she is leaving us, but pray for a successful and rewarding future career for her.

New Teachers

You will discover who your child's teacher will be for September by reading the final paragraph of the letter that accompanies their school report. The teachers are excited to be receiving their new children and are busily recording a message for their new class to be published on DB Primary on

Thursday next week. For your information, the Friday forum has been brought forward to Wednesday afternoon next week.

School Reports

End of year school reports are being distributed to parents in a different way this year. To comply with government guidelines and keeping everyone safe, we will be distributing the document electronically on specific dates, and these are listed below. Please ensure that school has your most recent email address. If you do not receive the report, you need to email reports@st-georges.enfield.sch.uk.

Year 6	Wednesday 8 July
Year 5	Thursday 9 July
Year 4	Friday 10 July
Years 3 and 2	Monday 13 July
Year 1 and Reception	Tuesday 14 July

Sports Week

We are really enjoying our special 'virtual' Sports Week, replacing our sports day this year. Each child is able to participate in individual events and earn points towards their house total. Each event and how to take part is described on DB Primary. We are thankful to Miss O'Toole for all her hard work in making this enjoyable event happen. The winning house will be revealed next week.

School Lunches

All school lunches will be a packed lunch style meal in September. To serve hot meals we would need to deep clean the school hall between year groups. As we do not have the capacity to do this, packed lunches will be distributed to and eaten in the classrooms. Under the universal free school meal scheme, each child in reception and key stage 1 will be provided with a lunch free of charge. Children in key stage 2 may order a school meal in the usual way, but please be aware that these will be a made up of sandwiches or pasta, with a cake or a biscuit, fruit and a drink. At £2.55, they still represent good value. We will keep the situation under continual review and reintroduce a hot meal service as soon as we are able.

Summer Food Fund

Children who are in receipt of free school meals (NOT universal free school meals for key stage one pupils) are eligible for vouchers to the value of £90 to cover the period of the summer holidays this year. Mrs Jones-Owen, our school business manager, will apply for the vouchers and will contact parents when further information is available.

Home Learning

The Department for Education have released an update regarding online education resources for home learning. This includes additional resources and new tips to help parents and carers with home education. The list of resources can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

Keeping children safe online

The Home Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have updated advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to include new information on apps to help children stay safe online.

The advice and guidance on keeping children safe online can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

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 wish everyone in our school community a healthy and restful weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher