



Dear Parents,

Since the Prime Ministers announcement last Sunday evening I can imagine that this week has been slightly more difficult for you with the additional anxiety around specific year groups of children being invited back into schools.

This week the Senior Leadership Team and I, with the support of the governors, have been carrying out a risk assessment in consultation with the staff with a view to looking at the possibility of reopening St Catherine's School in a safe manner given the current circumstances.

We are still in the process of making these decisions but I wanted to give you some indication of what we are thinking so far.

St Catherine's will likely reopen on 8th June on a part time basis so that risks can be managed.

We are unable to provide breakfast club and after school club due to restrictions around numbers and use of space.

We will invite the four year groups identified by the Prime Minister, to school one week at a time starting with the Nursery as advised by the DFE.

For parents who wish to continue with home learning we will continue to provide activities and feedback via Tapestry and Purplemash every week until the end of term.

We have been advised that any parent who wishes to keep their child at home will not be penalised as the statutory attendance requirements have been relaxed.

As you know since school closure we have continued to provide child care for children where both parents are key workers. We had to prioritise these children in order to keep numbers manageable and to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. We will continue to provide child care for these children until the end of the school term.

If we are able to open the school to nursery and then gradually to the other groups identified by the Prime Minister, the school day will be very different for the children.

We will likely follow a "bubble" style system where children will be put into small groups with a Teacher or Teaching Assistant who may not necessarily be the teacher of their class. The children will then be restricted to the classroom they are assigned and will not be able to move to other areas of the building. This is to reduce the risk of cross contamination to another bubble of children and staff in the school.

We also need to ensure that whatever we offer to each year group Parents know that they cannot move their child from one provision to another. For example if you would like your child to attend nursery in the sessions we may provide, we are unable to have your child in the key worker child care for the remaining sessions or days in the week. This again would transfer possible contagions from one bubble to another.

We will need to alter the start and finish times of the school day so that we do not have large groups of parents coming into the school grounds at the same time. Parents will also be unable to drop their children off at the classroom or enter the building. The children will need to walk in themselves.

The resources will also be limited, for example children in nursery reception and Year 1 will only use resources that can be washed and disinfected easily on a daily basis.

Cleaning and hand washing will continue to be priority when the children are in school. Specific staff will also be provided with PPE depending on the task they are completing.

All of the above are suggestions so far and nothing is confirmed as yet, as we are still consulting with staff. As you know from the news at the moment the Teaching unions are building a strong case for schools not to reopen until they receive information from the government on the 5 tests relating to the safety of the children and staff and the whole school community. If we do reopen we know for certain that we will be operating with a reduced number of staff for a variety of valid reasons relating to the DFE guidelines, which will have a huge impact on the numbers of children we can have in the school at one time.

Our priority in the next two months is to ensure the safety of the children and to re-establish some of their friendships and talk to and play safely with some of their classmates. We want to focus mainly on their emotional and social wellbeing as much as possible and to reassure them that this new norm won't last forever and that they are still very much part of St Catherine's school.

I hope this information will give you some indication of what the possible provision will look like after the 8th June if we do reopen. However please be mindful that we may not even be able to open at all.

For your information please see the links below which will provide you with the guidelines set out by the DFE so that you have an understanding as to why we are making the considerations listed above.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

In the meantime have a good weekend

Stay safe and take care of each other.

Miss Kelly

Headteacher