



St Paul's Catholic Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs. S. Sinclair B.A (Hons)
CEO: M Regan OBE, DL M.Ed., B.Ed (Hons), FCIEA, CEA
Deputy CEO: M Shorten M.Ed., BA (Hons)
Chair of Directors: J Wilson BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

2nd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and I thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue in our planning for reopening our school to more children.

As you know our school has remained open since 23rd March 2020, only to provide care for children of critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children.

We have now received some updated guidance from the Government regarding critical workers. This guidance states that the definition of critical workers remains unchanged, therefore you should only request care for your child if your job matches the criteria set out by the Government. We are aware that many of our families who fit the critical worker criteria have not needed to use school for childcare as they have been able to safely care for children at home. However, as more people return to work, many families are now requesting a place for their child/ren at school.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response then you are able to request a place for your child at school; to help us manage the increase in numbers we ask that you only request a place for the days you are in work. Please contact the school office to request a place. It is helpful for us to know as early as possible the dates you require as this will help us plan effectively for the number of children. It continues to be our priority to ensure we can provide places for this group of children.

Over the coming days we are continuing to make our preparations for the possible return of more Reception and Year 6 children. These preparations will mean that arrangements for our children of critical workers will change. They will be allocated a 'bubble' (a group of children and two or three members of staff) and the children will be required to stay in one room with staggered break and lunch times to avoid any contact with other bubbles of children. This is all part of our measures to control and isolate any possible infection quickly. This is going to be quite different to the arrangements that have currently been in place and when we are more certain of our arrangements we will be explaining this to the children. If your child has not been in school yet as a child of a critical worker, or a Reception or Year 6 child, please be assured that we will be sharing our plans in more detail with you next week.

For all parents who are either currently accessing our provision, or are intending to allow their children to return to school as part of the Reception or Year 6 cohort, it is essential that you read and follow the following key principles set out by the government.

- **Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions**
- **Parents must do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially outside of school. They must observe the same social distancing principles as adults, as far as possible**
- **You cannot visit family or friends inside their homes**





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- **You cannot allow your child to use an outdoor playground**
- **You cannot gather outdoors in a group of more than 6 (excluding members of your own household)**
- **Social distancing should be practiced with people from outside your household keeping 2 metres apart**
- **You follow the advice regarding self-isolation if you or any member of your household displays any symptoms of coronavirus**
- **You do not send your child into school if they are in any way unwell (even if not linked to coronavirus)**

These measures are set out by the government to return to life as near normal as we can but in a way that is safe and continues to protect our NHS. I expect all families accessing school provision now, or in the coming weeks, to be following these principles so you do not compromise the safety of your child, your family, other children or our school staff who are in close contact with your child.

I will be writing to you over the coming days with additional information. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or support.

Yours sincerely

Sheena Sinclair

Headteacher

