

St. Catherine’s Catholic Primary School Head Teacher Mrs Sarah Terrey

Pymore Road Tel: (01308) 423568

Bridport Fax: (01308) 421291

Dorset Email: office@stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk

DT6 3TR Website: [www.stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk)

18th May 2020

***Live, Love and Learn Together”***

Dear Parents,

I know there is some real concern amongst parents up and down the country that the partial return to school might be harmful to them, or their family. If parents of Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 children make an individual decision to keep their child at home during this period of time, then please rest assured this will not be questioned and they will not be penalised. These are unusual times for us all and decisions like this can be difficult. We respect your right to make the decision that you think is right for your child. We will do our best to provide a safe environment and some teaching that helps them to make progress.

It is important that we are transparent and realistic about the constraints of the offer we can make and the limits to the experience the children will have. We need to point out that they won't be resuming anything like a "normal" curriculum and learning. However, we will do everything we can to offer our children the best experience possible and they will be welcomed and cared for as far as the constraints allow.

You have been toldthat children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, and children of key workers (critical workers) can attend school from the 1st of June subject to certain conditions being met. Here are some of the challenges that we face as a school:

* There is an ambition to bring back ALL primary-age children by the end of June, so all children have a month in school before summer holidays. This is entirely dependent upon safe staffing levels.
* We have been told there is no need for PPE although face masks should be used by staff that are supervising children that are ill/showing symptoms in school while we wait for parents to collect.
* There should be no more than 15 children in any room at any time and they should be with 1 teacher each day. Desks and seats need to be separated (2m distance) between them, if possible. We cannot socially distance more than 6 or 8 pupils in a classroom. There are 7 classrooms in total.
* Groups of children must not mix together or come into contact, and children within a group should remain 2 metres apart, if they can. This is harder to enforce for EYFS.
* If there is a shortage of teachers, a teaching assistant can lead a group.
* If there are not enough classrooms/staffing available, then children might be offered other local schools.
* We will not be required to teach the normal curriculum. The curriculum will have a pastoral and welfare focus.
* Groups are to stick to 1 room during the day this will include lunchtimes at their desks. We have planned in regular staggered breaktimes so that groups are not mixing together/moving around the school at the same time.
* We will stagger drop-off and collection times where children are to arrive/be collected at different times. The protocols for adult to adult contact needs to be minimal. Only 1 parent/carer can escort a child to school and parents/carers cannot enter site and/or gather at school gates and doors.
* There will be no hot meals, children will eat a packed lunch at their desk, in their group’s room.
* Toys and equipment should not be used by other groups and should be cleaned between groups and unnecessary items in classrooms should be removed and stored elsewhere in the school. This will include all soft furnishings, toys and soft toys that cannot easily be cleaned every day.
* There will be regular hand washing during the day with hand sanitiser in all classrooms and additional cleaning by staff throughout the day.
* Rooms need to be well ventilated with windows open.
* Children will have limited toilet breaks so that children don’t gather at the toilets but in reception and Year 1, this will be a challenge.
* We will need to limit children/staff taking things home and then back to school. This will mean that children cannot bring home reading books, pencil cases, show and tell etc.
* Children cannot share stationery or resources – each child will have their own work space and all necessary resources. This is not possible in Reception and difficult in Year 1.

I have copied guidance below that parents and schools have been given and we are currently working to ensure that we are doing as much of this as possible but I am sure that you will understand the difficulties that this will present to us as a school.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Thank you so much for your patience, understanding and support at this difficult time. Please email me via the School office email should you have any specific questions.

Naturally, we all want to be back together again, however I am sure you will all agree with me that safety must come first in interpreting the government's proposed approach.

Please can I ask that parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 email the school office to give us in indication of your intention in terms of returning to school on 1st June and that you understand the measures that the school have put in place. Please do this by 10am on Wednesday 20th May so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you.

With Best Wishes

Mrs Sarah Terrey

Headteacher