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St. Anne's C.E. Primary School

Dear Parents/ Carers.

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well. Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on Sunday evening, I am writing to outline what we intend to do in the coming weeks.

Mr Johnson stated that schools will return on Monday 1st June for **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**, provided the five key Government tests justify this. I am currently liaising with the Local Authority and the Diocese to investigate what we can realistically put into place for this first stage, however this must be carefully planned to ensure that the children and staff are as safe as they can possibly be. **To help us with these preparations, if you are a parent in one of the above classes, you will shortly receive a text asking if you intend to send your child to school on 1st June. Could we please ask that you consider the government guidance below and reply to the text to say yes or no, by the end of Friday 15th May.** It should also be noted that should further progress not permit this, school will continue to remain open for the children of key workers who have no alternative childcare arrangements in place and for vulnerable families

To enable our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents to make an informed decision, following government guidance, it is anticipated that:

- each of the above four classes, if staffing permits, will be split into groups of no more than ten children, who may not be with their class teacher, nor with their closest friends
- these groups will be kept apart from each other throughout the day, including break and lunchtimes, which will be staggered.
- each small class will be in a separate room (not necessarily their own classroom) and will have a dedicated member of staff who will be with them throughout the day.
- this means these groups will have lunch on their own at their desk, maintaining social distancing and not mixing with other pupils.
- children will not be allowed to share resources or handle soft materials, making the Early Years environment in particular a very different place.
- children will not be able to bring anything into or out of school, including reading books and will be required to wear clean clothes every day.
- although children attending will access the National Curriculum to some degree, challenges will occur, as staff will also be managing those who are still home learning and maintaining email communication with parents.
- pick-up and drop-off times will be staggered to maintain social distancing, which may require reduced school hours.
- it is possible that each of the above groups may be phased in gradually, to ease our way into this system more safely.

- in the event that a child or adult in a given group should test positive, the whole group will have to self-isolate for fourteen days.

The above list is not exhaustive and this letter cannot at the current stage provide any definite plan until the DfE toolkit has been published and further consultation with the Local Authority and the Diocese have taken place. However, in arriving at what must be a very difficult decision for parents, please bear in mind that if you do not send your child into school, the Government has made it clear that there will be no attendance repercussions and no fines issued.

Looking ahead, the government hopes that all primary children will come back to school before the summer holidays for a month. This is not a certainty and will depend upon feasibility and the developments made in tackling the virus. It will be kept under constant review. I am sure that you will appreciate that the utmost priority is reducing risk for children and staff.

I would like to thank the staff team for all of their hard work and commitment over the last few weeks. With their support, we have kept school open to the children of key workers and vulnerable families and provided home learning activities for the rest of our pupils. I would also like to thank parents for all their kind messages and for everything that they are doing to continue their children's education in very difficult circumstances. Please continue to make the most of your time at home with your children, completing whichever home learning activities you can, whenever you can. Be assured that once normality is regained, we will make all the necessary adjustments to ensure that all our children receive the education that they have missed.

Please continue to stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Lynne Sixsmith

Head Teacher

