



St. Chad's R.C. Primary School.
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Dear Parents,

Our school will be closed completely for the scheduled half term holiday. This is to allow a thorough deep clean of the building and to set up for the next phase in our plan to get children back to school.

You will have heard in the news that the government wants schools to start to reopen for more children from the 1st June at the earliest and this is dependent on the 5 tests that have to be met before restrictions can be eased. I want to be open with you about how we are planning to do this.

Firstly we will not be opening on June 1st, as I have said above, there are measures that need to be in place in school to try to ensure everyone's safety and we need time to do this. We also need to ensure that the measures we take are effective so we will open very gradually, starting with our oldest children in Y6 and on June 8th. More details will be sent later to our Y6 children.

The decision to send your child back to school is yours alone. There is no compulsion to do so, we will not be measuring attendance other than to review our safety measures. I need to make it very clear that I cannot guarantee 100% safety – I suppose I never can even in normal circumstances, but we will do everything we can to make it as safe as we can. It is going to be very difficult which is why we have started with our oldest children who should be able to maintain some distancing and meticulous handwashing.

Start and finish times will be staggered and we will ask parents not to come on to school premises for any reason. Our office will be closed to visitors, there will be a number to call if you need to talk to someone. All payments will be online, we will not take any cash.

The children will be in groups of no more than 15, in a room that may not have been their own classroom and with staff who may not have been their teacher. They will sit apart on individual desks. There will be set times for breaks and set times to visit the toilets. This is to ensure that the groups do not mix at all.

Lunches will be made, delivered to the classroom and eaten at their own tables. Children who bring their own lunch will be asked to bring it in a disposable bag. There will be spray and wipes to ensure that spaces are hygienic. Strict handwashing protocols will be followed. Any child that cannot follow the safety protocols will be deemed to be safer at home and their place will be withdrawn.

There will be time for outside breaks but once again these will be at set times and the groups may not mix. It is highly unlikely that team games will be allowed and all equipment will be wiped clean after use. All children will be given the equipment they need for writing and not allowed to bring resources from home.

This term there will be no assemblies, whole school acts of worship, hymn practices or any form of coming together for the whole year group. There will be no leavers' Mass.

Drop off and pick up will also be different. We ask that only one parent does this and that you queue, 2 metres apart, on the pavement outside the gates. The gate will be opened and children will enter one at a time.

Any child who develops any of the Covid symptoms at school will be isolated and will have to be picked up. Staff members dealing with this will be wearing face masks and gloves. The whole group may then have to isolate, unless testing can be arranged by parents, for up to 14 days. Testing is now quite widely available through the government website.

Once we have fully reviewed these measures and taken the scientific advice we may consider opening for other children.

We remain open from 8th June for our key worker and vulnerable children. If your child has been accessing this since lockdown started you may choose to continue. For anyone who wishes a new place for their child please be aware that we will prioritise NHS hospital workers as we will now have to change the way we run these sessions and cap numbers. Our key worker group will form their own group of no more than 15 children with similar rules as above. If your child already accesses this in school, you will not need to reapply.

School will not be the same as it was and I have to make you very aware of that. We will only open to Y6 on June the 8th if the 5 tests that the government have set have been met and scientific advice says that it is safe to do so. We have chosen this year group because we feel that they will have the best chance at successfully following our safety rules. These tests are to be reviewed on 28th May and we will be in touch with you after this date with more details.

Until we can all be back, take care, look after yourselves and each other.

God bless,

Jacqui Potts