Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers of CORNERSTONE CLUB PUPILS

**Re: Update on possible reopening of schools**

Thank you for your patience while we waited for further information on reopening schools – the government has now published more guidance, and I have summarised our actions in response below. To recap, if the government thinks that it’s safe, from the 1st June, school can begin to make plans for a phased reopening for nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils.

Considering the physical geography of the school building, the safety of pupils and staff we now have a detailed plan to begin to welcome these year groups back but only when it is safe to do so.

School has remained open for Key Worker children and on the 1st June will also open, in the first instance, to Year 6 pupils only. Following this, an evaluation of the safety measures in place for staff and pupils will take place before further consideration is given to opening school to more year groups and we will only do this if it is safe to do so.

As you will expect, school will need to operate very differently and there are significant changes and procedures in place to aim to protect staff and pupils. Due to the size of our classrooms, the maximum number of children that can be safely taught within them is 12 in some rooms and 10 in others. Therefore, once Year 6 pupils join the Key Worker children already in school, space to open to further year groups is already very limited.

From 1st June, to facilitate the phased return of some year groups, the children of Key Workers will be taught across three classrooms depending on their age / key stage.

Miss King will teach EYFS pupils in the nursery classroom and pupils will enter school via the Reception Class door.

Miss Thicket will teach key stage one pupils (years 1 and 2) and pupils will enter and be collected from the key stage one door.

Mrs. Baylis will teach years 3 and 4 and they will enter and be collected from the key stage one door.

Miss Dilkes will teach years 4 and 5 and pupils we be collected from the year three classroom door.

Social Distancing for Pupils

Whilst, it is very hard for social distancing within a school setting and in particular for the younger children, we have endeavoured to put procedures in place.

To enable social distancing in school, pupils will be taught in maximum class groups of 12 and will remain with this group throughout the day including at breaks and lunch times.

Arrival and collection from school, break times and lunch times will also be staggered.

Social Distancing for Parents

Only one parent / carer is permitted to drop off and collect children and this should be at the time you have been allocated. The school grounds are not open for parents or pupils before / after school and you must not congregate on the school premises.

Wherever possible communication with school staff including the school office should be via e-mail, class dojo or telephone. Staff will not be available to speak with parents at drop off / collection.

Social distancing signs and procedures will be in place and we respectfully ask that you follow these at all times.

School Office

Visitors to the school office are restricted to one person at a time and only when absolutely necessary. Communication with the school office should be via telephone or e-mail office@Sacredheartrc.rochdale.sch.uk

Dinner Money

At present school cannot handle cash payments and therefore any payments to school should be via our electronic system ‘School Money’. If you are unable to pay for your child’s dinner electronically then please provide them with a packed lunch.

School Uniform

From 1st June, children will be expected to wear school uniform but we appreciate that they will have grown since they last wore them. Rules are therefore relaxed to reflect this but we expect your best endeavors to wear school uniform. Sizes are limited but some spare uniform is available from school. We strongly encourage children to change out of their uniform once home and that this is washed regularly.

Water Bottles

Pupils will be provided with a water bottle for their use in school.

Well-Being

As ever, the well-being of our children and their growth as young people is paramount to the education we are planning for their return, we are a faith based school and consider ourselves to be a family and in some ways this make the necessary changes even more challenging.

Please take some time to prepare your child for their return to school and to explain that, whilst we would love for things to be ‘normal’ sadly, many things will be very different.

Mrs Boardman (Family Worker) and Mrs Scholes (CARITAS Worker) alongside all of our staff will support the children’s transition back into school and we have planned, certainly for the first week, to focus on relationships, talking to the children and providing opportunities to support them to understand the changes.

Clinically Vulnerable Pupils

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance available on the Gov.uk website.

If your child becomes unwell

If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 please **inform school as soon as possible.** School can then seek timely advice from Public Health England which, may include advising the rest of the class group to self-isolate for 14 days.

Finally, as I said earlier in my letter, school will only reopen to further year groups if we believe that it is safe to do so. The measures outlined above are just a summary of significant planning and consideration for procedural changes which, we hope but cannot guarantee, will keep all of us as safe as possible. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 6 and Key Worker children back to school and I again ask that you observe all of the measures in place.

Thank you for your continued support, kind messages to the school and cooperation.

Please continue to look after one another and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

P Dungworth

Headteacher