Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers of Year 6 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.

This is a cautious plan, based on the advice received to-date so that school, parents and pupils can prepare. However, Teachers Unions, ministers and health professionals remain in talks and should the advice or recommendations to schools change about what is safe for staff and children, the decision to re-open will be reviewed.

School has remained open for Key Worker children and on the 1st June will also open in the first instance 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.

Social Distancing for Pupils

Whilst, it is very challenging for social distancing to be adhered to, the reason for opening to Year 6 pupils first is that they are more-able to follow the rules and procedures in place to keep us all safe. We would also like the opportunity to put some transition in place so that despite the challenges we have to face, we can aim to prepare them as much as is possible for their move on to high school.

To enable social distancing in school, pupils will be taught in class groups of 10 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.

School will close to Y6 pupils at 1pm on Fridays to enable the school to be thoroughly cleaned and so that teachers can complete their planning, preparation and assessment.

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 preferably in a disposable bag.

School Uniform

Children are expected to wear school uniform but we appreciate that they will have grown since we last saw 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

Individual water bottles will be provided for children and have their names on

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 makes 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.

In preparation for their return to school, Mr Golding will send home a new home learning / transition booklet for children to complete.

Mr. Golding has divided the class into three teaching groups considering pupils living within the same household, the high schools children are moving onto and friendship groups. Mr Golding will plan for all of the children’s work but as they are split across three rooms they with be taught by Miss O’Malley and Miss Magda.

Your child is in Year 6 A:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class Group** | **Teacher** | **Teaching Assistant** | **Door** | **Drop off time** | **Collection time**  |
| Year 6A | Mr. Golding | Miss Chan  | Year 6 | 9.00am | 3.00pm |
| Year 6B | Miss O’Malley  | Mrs. Brown  | Key Stage 2 | 8.50am  | 2.45pm  |
| Year 6C | Miss Magda  | Mrs. Powell  | Key Stage 2  | 9.10am  | 3.00pm  |

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.

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 children back to school and I ask again 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