

## End of term letter

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, another term has ended during lockdown and I am sure we are all wishing for things to go back to normal! It has been wonderful to see children contributing on the website about their learning and doing many activities.

Staff have been working hard to ensure learning is on and followed each day.

Everyone has found the Safe and Well calls so useful – hearing our pupils' voices is very helpful and calming – as well as talking to parents and sharing worries and concerns.

### The reopening of St Agnes School to further pupils

As I am sure you will all be aware, there has been a great deal of talk about schools 'reopening' and how this should happen from 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes. I am writing to you today with how this could will look like at St. Agnes.

Firstly, I must be very honest with you all. I am very concerned about the reopening of schools and whether this has been suggested too quickly. Of course, all the staff and I want to have your children back in school as soon as it is safe to do so – we have missed them all incredibly and we want to be welcoming them back with open arms. However, I do not want this to be at the expense of the safety of your children and our staff.

Thank you to all who replied to the survey about sending children back to school – 83% said 'no', 10% said 'yes' and 7% 'not sure'.

Below is an outline of our plan for the gradual reopening of our school. However, it is your choice as a parent whether you choose to send your children back to school at this stage. There will be no fines; no judgement made if you choose at this point that it is safer for your children to remain at home and not return to school for this short period of time.

- **Monday 1st June** – School reopens for key worker children / vulnerable families for care provision
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – School MAY reopen for Year Six pupils only - this is subject to Government decisions that the 5 Key Tests/Criteria have been met (this will not be decided until May 28th). It will be only open to those Year Six families that have said 'yes' and have been contacted by school
  - School will be open from 9.00am until 12.00pm
  - Pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals will have a packed lunch ready to take home at 12.00pm from the hall
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June onwards** – consideration will be given as to whether school can open for other year groups

There are, I am sure, many questions that you would like answered before you decide that it is safe for you to allow your child to return to school and I will try to answer some of them in this letter.

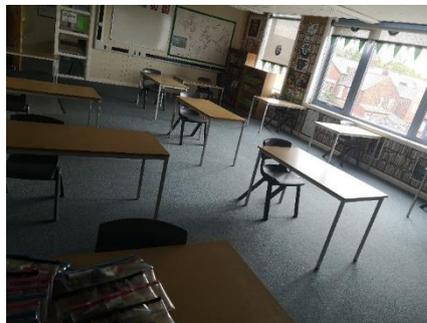
### What will school look like for my child?

School at this time would look very different for any child coming back into the building. We believe through our risk assessments that social distancing must be in place at all times for pupils and for staff.

For Year Six, this will mean that we have had to adapt our classrooms. We have looked at each room in Key Stage Two and assessed that we can fit a maximum of eleven pupils in a room. They will be sat at desks that are two metres apart and allows for movement around the room maintaining this distance. Movement around the classroom and around the school building will be limited wherever possible.

- Children will therefore be split into groups of eleven for the period of time that they are in school.
- They will remain in the one room and they will only be able to be with the adults/children who are with them in this room at all times.
- Children will be in these rooms for the vast majority of time that they are within the school building, including for break times.
- Children will be able to go outside, but only with those children in their 'bubble' (class of eleven.) They will not be able to associate with children from any of the other bubbles.
- All of the classrooms will have all materials removed from them that cannot be easily cleaned or wiped. Any resources that are used by your child will only be used by them.

An example of how the classroom will look is below.



## What will my child be doing at school?

The learning will be similar to the online home learning and packs.

All lessons and activities will be based at their tables. There will be a focus on working on the emotional wellbeing of pupils.

## Is it safe for my child to return to school?

Only you as a parent can make that decision. We have carried out comprehensive risk assessments to reduce the risk for your children to be at the lowest we can get this in school. Currently, I do not feel that anyone can promise you that anywhere is completely safe.

## My child is missing out on their education and needs to be back in school

Yes, there has been a period of time where children have not been in school, but all of the children have taken part in high quality distance learning. They have been working incredibly hard in all that they have been doing.

Every child in the whole country is in exactly the same position. It is our job as a school (and for the secondary schools that your children will be going to) to be supporting your child over time with their learning and ensuring that this period of time away from school does not have a long term negative impact upon their learning. We WILL be able to do this – it may take some time but this is what we will ensure happens for your child.

## I have children in other year groups will they be able to come back into school?

# St Agnes C.E. Primary School



At this point, no. Only children in Year 6 will be able to begin to return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. This may be extended later but would be subject to a risk assessment.

## I am not going to send my Year Six child in now – can I change my mind?

If you change your mind, you can contact school to inform us of this. We will require a minimum of at least one-week notice to be able to risk assess how we could safely accommodate your child. This would also be subject to their being sufficient places available to be able to accommodate your child within school.

## If my child starts off in one 'bubble' (group) can they move or change?

No, once a child begins in any of the groups then they must remain in this bubble / group for the whole of the Summer Two term. It is important to minimise the contact between people within schools so children will always be working with the same adults and same children in their group.

The underlying message that I give to all of our parents is that the choice is yours. We will ensure that we do all that we can to make school as safe as we possibly can – but we cannot guarantee that your child will be 100% safe from coming into contact or contracting Coronavirus. Scientists themselves are giving conflicting information on a daily basis as to how safe schools will be. There is conflicting information as to whether the disease can be spread by / to children. There is debate about different forms of this emerging. Children naturally touch, chew, share many things – all the things that we are encouraged not to do which is normally the most natural thing in the world for them to be doing. My sincere hope is that by September when we are due to reopen for the new school year we are much more advanced in our knowledge and understanding of Covid-19 and that we are able to safely still make adaptations, but equally safely welcome back all children to school. As I stated at the beginning of this letter, I FULLY support you as parents if you choose not to send your children into school at this time.

If you have further questions or wish to talk things through please do telephone school (0161 224 6829) or email [admin@st-agnes.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-agnes.manchester.sch.uk). A further message to Year 6 parents will be sent out in the week beginning Monday 1st June giving full details of the return to school for those families that have chosen to do so. You may also wish to look at our Risk Assessment for the further reopening of schools.

## Half term

School will be closed completely during half term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

On behalf of everyone at St Agnes and the Governing Body, I want to wish a wonderful Eid Mubarak to all our families celebrating the end of Ramadan with Eid-ul-Fitr this weekend! It will definitely be a strange time but I wish you all a peaceful and joyous time.

May I take this opportunity to thank so many of you for the kind words of support that you have given me and all of the staff in school who have worked tirelessly throughout this difficult time to support our families. You all mean the world to us and we want you to be safe. We will be together once again soon though.

Please do take care of each other, please stay safe

Best regards

Mr S Uddin

**Headteacher**

Mrs Helen Thompson

**Chair of Governors**