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THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
The Catholic Diocese of Northampton
“Following Jesus, The Good Shepherd, in all we say and do”

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and managing in the current situation? It's been really informative to hear from so many families and I know that, although you are all doing the very best you can, the last few weeks have been a challenge and there is a great deal of uncertainty and some anxiety about the next phase of our response to Covid-19.

I am confident that we can continue to work together to ensure that our young people receive the best possible education. I am writing to you to share our thoughts and hopes for the next stages of opening; as always these plans are what we feel might be possible if we are all in good health and the virus continues to behave.

As you know we opened our doors to more children on Tuesday June 2nd and I cannot thank all of our amazing staff, parents and children for working with us to ensure this process happened as smoothly as possible. I know it has been a challenge but it has been so important for us to phase in our year groups. We have managed to accommodate:

- 2 x key worker groups
- 2 x Year 6 groups
- 1 x Year 1 group
- 2 x Reception groups
- 1 x Nursery group.

If you have decided to keep your child at home, we support you; if you have decided to send your children back to school, we also support you.

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Teachers have prepared new work packs to help refresh children's appetite for learning and our Trust have purchased a new online platform for English and Maths – IXL. Passwords have either been emailed to parents or put inside children's new learning packs which can be collected from school if your child is in years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

School is different for the children who have returned but they have amazed us in their approach to the new way of school life and 'Bubble Life.' One year 6 described it as 'Different but it's good.'

For those children at home who are desperate to return, we have not forgotten about you. As you know, our school term was to end for the summer on Wednesday 15th July. However, we would like to propose we end the term on Wednesday 8th July for children currently attending Year N, R, 1 and 6, with the exception of our key worker groups. This would enable us to welcome all our children back in the final week of school in groups of max 15 to have one day 10.00am – 2.00pm with a teacher before we break for summer. We could also ensure our Year 6 children have a day before they move on to the next phase of their education.

Should we find that we do not have classroom space to accommodate everyone, we may arrange for an online meeting on Teams with the new class teacher.

We would ask that should your child be in a key worker group and wish to attend their transition day, they remain at home the day prior to transition day and the day afterwards.

More information will be sent to you in the weeks ahead detailing whether your child will have a session in school or a Teams meeting online with a teacher.

There will be no obligation for children to attend and no judgements will be made should you decide not to send your child for their session on school.

Our aim during this new phase of education is to provide students with some meaningful face to face time with their teachers whilst ensuring that health, safety and well-being remain paramount.

Once again, thank you for your support throughout this extraordinary period. The wider Good Shepherd Community have responded brilliantly. Thank you very much, take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carmel Dodds
Headteacher