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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”

School Update – 21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am overwhelmed by your positivity and thank you for your supportive comments and thanks. I completely understand the reservations that some people have about children returning to school and want to give you as much information as I can so that you can make a reasoned decision.

The government will make a decision on Friday 28th May 2020 to confirm whether school will be able to open week commencing 1st June 2020.

I have written this letter to address some of your questions on the survey and others sent via the admin@ email address. I have copied relevant sections out of the Covid-19 Risk Assessment which will go to our Trust for approval.

We still have a number of staff who are shielding. Therefore some groups may be led by members of our support team. All the Norse cleaning staff have been in all along deep cleaning the buildings.

We are mindful of maintaining social bubbles of children with the same staff and children as far as possible in the classroom and in zoned areas at playtimes, where they will be with adults. We will attempt to ensure these adults are known to the children, as far as possible. In addition, there will be staggered drop off and pick up times. There will be 2m markings in corridors, the hall and outside the classroom where they line up. We have tried to ensure where possible tables are set up 2 metres apart.

It is vital that we get transition right for our children returning to school. School will be different and it is important to discuss this with your child. In some cases spaces will be unfamiliar because they have had to be stripped back to minimum washable resources.

The children will be with children from their year group as far as possible unless they are in the key worker group. So some answers to your questions:



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- Y6 – the children can **walk** if you trust them to social distance.
- There will definitely be lunch provided for those children who are entitled under UFSM (Reception and Year 1) this may be a packed lunch which will be delivered to the door of your child's allocated bubble.
- **Key worker children** will join the key worker group when they are not in class. We are still thinking about this group and finding ways to reduce cross over between groups and we will keep you informed of any further decisions. Initially we may take the decision to phase year groups and where this is the case your child may be better remaining in the key worker group for week 1.
- **EYFS will be distanced** at tables. The Reception and Nursery team have been setting out activities in individual packs on tables. Children may find this challenging to begin with because they are so used to moving between spaces and playing and learning in groups.
- We expect parents to **check temperatures** and check for symptoms before the children come to school. We will be vigilant during the day and may call you if your child shows symptoms, in which case they would need collecting straightaway. We have thermometers in school to check children showing any symptoms.
- Staff will not be wearing **PPE** unless otherwise advised; however, we have ordered PPE for personal care, any child who displays symptoms of Covid-19 and potential physical behaviour incidents. This consists of gloves, masks and aprons.
 - We will **maintain PurpleMash** for the year groups not in school for as long as possible. As the number of children into the school increases or should teachers become ill and need to self-isolate, it may become impossible to sustain daily interaction online but we will monitor our capacity on a weekly basis.
 - **Currently the government are saying that parents will not be fined if they continue to home school their children. We will continue to update you should this change.**

I hope that this answers most of the questions. Please continue to email or call with any other enquiries and questions.

Extracts from the Risk Assessment so far:

- Aim to keep children socially distanced as far as possible with constant reminders.
- Children will remain in small groups within their own socially distanced bubble.
- Bubble movement will be overseen by staff and will be limited. If groups overlap surfaces/resources will be wiped down by staff.



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- **Groups/bubbles:**
 - Nursery/Reception - EYFS up to 8 children in each room with 2 adults per class plus a further member of support staff across the unit supervising toilets etc.
 - Year 1 - maximum of 15 in a class. 2 adults per room for Year 1
 - Year 6 - a maximum of 15 children per class in 2 rooms with either a teacher or HLTA and TA.
 - Key worker/vulnerable children – these groups will be based in the Y3 classrooms with 2 adults per class.

- **One way systems**
 - Put marks on floor demarcating 2m in corridors, the hall and outside classrooms.
 - One-way system – children will keep on the left. Children will be with an adult and taught the rule.
 - Only traffic in one direction at any time. If oncoming foot traffic then you wait.
 - One-way system around the buildings for drop off and pick up shown clearly on a map.
 - Move around buildings and grounds in lines 2m apart.

- **Toilet breaks**
 - To be monitored to reduce the number of children using them at any one time. Only one child inside at a time and others wait outside on dots 2m apart. They will use specific toilets for their bubble/group and these will be regularly cleaned.
 - Children to wash hands every hour for 20 seconds (see hand-washing section below).
 - Wash hands after play, before lunch, using equipment etc.

- **Lunch Time:**
 - **EYFS/Nursery** - All children to eat at their class table Early Years – 11.30-12.30 children’s lunch will be taken to the classroom unless they have brought their own packed lunch. Tables will be wiped down afterwards ready for afternoon activities.
 - **Year 1** - All children to eat at their class table 11.45-12.45 - children’s lunch will be taken to the classroom unless they have brought their own packed lunch. Tables will be wiped down afterwards ready for afternoon activities.
 - **Key worker/vulnerable group** - Children to eat at their class table 12.00-1.00pm children’s lunch will be taken to the classroom unless they have brought their own packed lunch. Tables will be wiped down afterwards ready for afternoon activities.
 - **Year 6** – Children to eat at their class table - 12.00-1.00pm children’s lunch will be taken to the classroom unless they have brought their own packed lunch. Tables will be wiped down afterwards ready for afternoon activities.

- **Play times:**
 - Playground/field to be zoned enabling games 2m apart and year groups will have staggered playtimes and separate areas. We will have different areas within those outlined below for each class bubble.
 - Nursery & EYFS will play in their outside area 2m apart.
 - Year 1 will play in the playground outside their classroom but not on equipment.
 - Key worker children will play outside the Year 3 classrooms on the large grass area.
 - Year 6 will play on 2 sections of the key stage 2 playground but not on equipment.



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- **Handwashing:**

- Staff assigned to refill soap dispensers and cleaning materials throughout the day.
- Access to classroom sinks and toilets under adult supervision. One at a time.
- Children encouraged to wash hands when entering school, after coughing or sneezing, after using the toilet, before and after handling food.
- All children to wash their hands every hour. If your child has very sensitive skin please provide an appropriate, named, emollient.
- Ensure sufficient supplies are topped up.
- Any visitors to school will be required to wash their hands when first entering the building. Appropriate hand gel will be available if access to the medical room is not available.
- Visitors will have their temperatures taken and asked if they have symptoms of Covid-19

- **Staggered drop off and pick-ups:**

- Staggered start and end times have been established for drop off and collection. Please try to arrive no earlier or later than selected drop off and collection times. These times are subject to change dependant to staffing and pupil numbers.
 - EYFS and Year 1 – 09.30 – 14.30
 - Year 6 – 09.15 – 14.45
 - Keyworker – 09.30 – 14.30
- A map will be fixed to the fence showing circulation of foot traffic around the building.
- Signs on the fence will reiterate family Covid-19 protocols at a 2m distance.
- Parents who visit the office need to queue outside 2m apart but can contact the school via the school number or email at any time.

We cannot wait to have everyone back together again. Our priority is to ensure school is ready and safe for the named year groups to return. We have been working extremely hard to complete risk assessments and prepare our school for a different approach to learning. In order to ensure all our staff are fully trained and understand the movement around our site and the changes in routines we will be having a Training Day on 1st June and potentially phase year groups in afterwards.

We cannot thank you enough for all of your patience throughout this process and the amazing work you are doing at home. The sun is shining and we do hope you take the time to enjoy it.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of our staff who have prepared projects, planned lessons, responded to tasks, sent links to websites, phoned parents and are chatting to children through their Purple Mash blogs in addition to home schooling their own children and completing online training modules and been in school, planning and delivering projects with the children of key workers. I am extremely grateful.

We will send out more detail around opening over the next few days. The government said they would announce on 28th May whether schools are definitely to begin a wider opening, through bringing year EYFS, Years 1, 6 and Nursery back to school or remain closed until further notice.



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We will update you with our plans over the days ahead. Keep checking the school website and ParentMail for further information/updates.

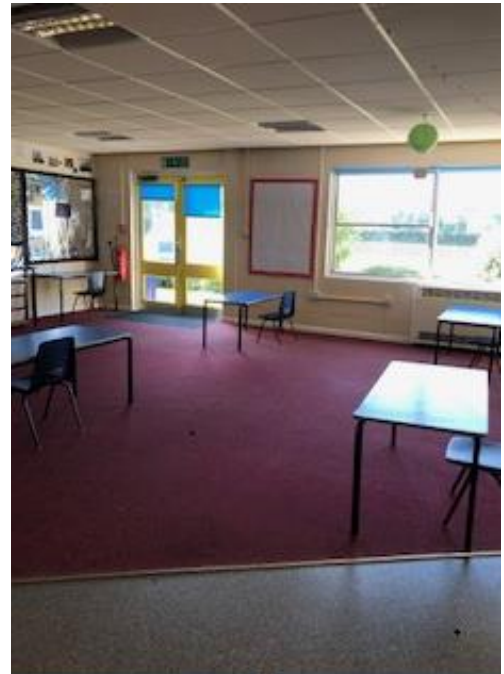
I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Mrs Carmel Dodds
Head Teacher

Nursery classroom:



Reception Classroom:



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