



# *Cottesmore St. Mary*

## *Catholic Primary School*

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON



Headteacher: Rachel Breen B.A. Hons.

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents / carers,

I hope you and your families are managing in these differing times. We think of you daily and continue to put the children's safety and needs at the forefront of all that we do.

I'm sure like me, many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's address to the nation yesterday. You will have heard the Prime Minister indicating that the Government believes it may be in a position to implement a phased re-opening of schools from 1st June, starting with pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This is part of the Government's conditional plan which it says will remain under regular review.

All of us want to get more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. We do not want to see classrooms empty for a day longer than they need to be. However, the first priority has to be the safety of everyone in the school community.

Any plan to increase the number of pupils in schools has to be practical and manageable whilst ensuring that we can maintain any sense of social distancing. We are working to gain a better understanding of the details of the Government's plan.

It is inevitable that many of you will have a range of questions. Like you, we have only just seen the announcement and, at this stage, we cannot answer all your questions. We are waiting to receive more information from the Government about what this means for schools. In the short-term, nothing has changed but we will provide further information in the coming days and weeks once we are able to do so.

We know our school community well and will make decisions regarding the safety of pupils, and staff, based on our own individual risk assessments. You too know your children and I'm sure you will make your own decisions based on what you feel is safest, not only for your child, but for your family and the community as a whole.

While we have been planning for such announcements, we now require some time to put our response into action so that we can ensure the best possible safety to all in our care. We will of course be in touch with a detailed plan in due course.





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We will continue to plan for the potential of all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 families taking up the Government option until we know more. Later in the week, it is likely that we will contact you with regards to your initial thoughts regarding attendance which, at this point, we are assuming will be optional but, as ever, we await further clarification. For example, I have had liaison with parents who have said that, regardless of what school's plans are, they would rather keep their children safe at home until they have seen more with regards to health statistics, some noting that they'd rather keep their children home until September rather than send them in for all or part of the seven weeks that the school would be open (from 1st June until 22nd July).

I'll be back in touch by the end of the week latest, if not before.

Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers as ever and thank you for your ongoing support.

Many thanks

Rachel Breen

