



# *Cottesmore St. Mary*

## *Catholic Primary School*

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON



Headteacher: Rachel Breen B.A. Hons.

29th May 2020

Letter regarding reopening to children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Dear parents / carers

I hope that you, and your families, remain well. During this week, our risk assessment has been reviewed by staff and Governors. This is now with the Local Authority and Unions, as per their request to all schools, and we await further feedback.

Guidance remains that schools must only open once they are certain that it is absolutely safe to do so and that they must do so with caution. Due to unavoidable circumstances, and after discussion with Governors, our opening will be slightly delayed to, we believe, that of Monday 8th June. We appreciate that the children are looking forward to returning to school and apologise for any disappointment.

Below are our new proposed start dates

Monday 8th June - welcome back 2 of the 5 Year 6 Hubs. Your child's current class teacher will call all families on Wednesday 3rd or Thursday 4th to inform you which Hub they will be in and to answer any of your questions. Children will also receive a Seesaw video of their new class base and a message from their assigned teacher.

Tuesday 9th June - welcome the remaining 3 Year 6 hubs. Those attending on Monday will not come into school on this day. Calls home, as per above, on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th.

Wednesday 10th June - welcome all 5 of the Year 6 Hubs.

Thursday 11th June - welcome the 4 Year 1 Hubs. However this may be staggered over 2 days if take up by children increases. Continue to welcome all 5 of the Year 6 Hubs. Year 1 children's current class teacher will call all families on Thursday 4th or Friday 5th to inform you of which Hub they will be in and to answer any questions. Children will also receive a Seesaw video of their new class base and a message from their assigned teacher.

Friday 12th June - welcome the 4 Year 1 Hubs. However this may be staggered over 2 days if take up by children increases. Continue to welcome all 5 Year 6 Hubs.

Monday 15th June - welcome the 4 Reception Hubs. However this may be staggered over 2 days if take up by children increases. Continue to welcome all 5 of the Year 6 Hubs plus all 4 of the Year 1 Hubs. Reception children's current class teacher will call all families on Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th to inform you which Hub they will be in and to answer any questions. Children will also receive a Seesaw video of their new class base and a message from their assigned teacher.

Tuesday 16th June onwards – welcome all 5 of the Year 6 Hubs plus all 4 of the Year 1 Hubs and all 4 of the Reception Hubs.

We will remain open for Key Worker children from Monday 1st June. Places must be booked in liaison with the school and in advance, with at least a week's notice.

This our proposed plan. However, we have, today, received the following statement from Brighton and Hove City Council - Our city's schools and early year's providers continue to do a magnificent job opening for the children of key workers and vulnerable children and we thank them for their hard work during a prolonged challenging

time. Our advice continues to be that schools and Council nurseries should only reopen to more children when it's safe to do so, following risk assessments and detailed planning so that we can make sure they are as safe as possible for children, school staff and the wider community.

We are acting on advice from our public health colleagues and there are reasonable concerns that the government's 5 key tests have not all been met locally. In particular we are not confident that the test around effective testing and tracing is currently met given the very recent introduction of the government's Test and Trace programme especially in a city with a high visitor footfall such as ours. Therefore our current advice to Brighton & Hove schools and council nurseries is that they should not open more widely for pupils on 1 June.

Whilst education is hugely important for our children, the Council's position has always been that the safety and welfare of our children, school staff and wider community has to be our paramount consideration. The decision on whether to open an individual school lies with the head teacher, in consultation with the chair of governors, but we would encourage schools to follow our advice. This advice will be kept under constant review by the council as we are keen for schools to reopen to more children, but only when it is safe to do so.

With this in mind, our proposals may need to change as and when we receive further information.

Please know that I continue to be aware that these are challenging times for all and that everyone's circumstance is different. As ever, I want to thank you all for your patience and continued support.

Please continue to rest assured that we have everyone's best interests at the forefront of all that we do and please note that we want to get children back to school as soon as possible but that we can only do so when it is deemed safe to do so. We will of course continue to support them, via calls home, Home Learning Grids and Seesaw, until we are together again.

As ever, I'm always here if you need any support.

Please send my hellos to your child and let them know that we look forward to seeing them soon.

Many thanks

Rachel Breen, Headteacher

