



# ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Living and working as Jesus taught us*

Head Teacher: Mr L. Anderson  
Marina Crescent, Huyton, Liverpool, Merseyside, L36 5XL  
(0151) 477-8260  
stanne@knowsley.gov.uk  
www.stannesprimaryknowsley.co.uk

Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Planning for Potential Reopening of School to Identified Year Groups

We are writing to you to update you on further developments since our previous letter, which was sent out last week. We polled parents/carers of the year groups identified by the Prime Minister in his speech on Sunday 10th May (Nursery poll to follow) to see who would be prepared to send their child to school if we **feel it is safe to** re-open for those pupils in the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Many thanks to everyone who completed this and for sharing any concerns.

This initial survey was to gauge potential numbers and to assess how we could try to accommodate this within our school setting, in accordance with government guidelines, taking into account the key factor of **safety** for pupils and staff. We do realise that without any detail of what school would possibly be like, this may have been hard for you to complete. We feel we are now in a position to give you an idea of how school might need to be configured to cater for these potential pupil numbers. Our aim is to be open and transparent to allow you to make an informed decision about what is best for your children and your families in the current circumstances.

From the week commencing **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** we are anticipating an increased number of children using our ongoing childcare facility (available to children of key workers and vulnerable children). It is clear that this will have an impact on how many children we will be able to look after safely on site at any one time.

As you will be aware, the Government has released guidance on how schools should operate in the current circumstances. These measures include:

- Reduced class sizes to adhere to social distancing (our classroom sizes allow between 5 and 10 children maximum with the 2 metre rule)
- Children to remain in the same group at all times with no mixing
- Children to have the same teacher all the time (not necessarily their current teacher)
- Children must wear clean clothes everyday
- Children will not be able to bring in anything from home except a water bottle (no books, equipment)
- Children will not need bags in school
- Corridors and paths have been marked out to allow the appropriate level of distancing to be maintained
- Outside play equipment will not be able to be used
- Children will have allocated play space for their breaks
- Children will sit at desks 2 metres apart which will be their allocated desk, this will be the same for our younger children





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- Equipment will be provided for our children and it will only be touched by them
- Staff will be adhering to social distancing; this will necessitate a focus on independent learning for all pupils
- Increased hand washing and sanitising
- Separate entry and exit points (parents/carers will enter from the Marina Drive entrance and leave via the Blacklow Brow side of the school a one way system will be in place with 2 metre intervals marked out)
- Soft furnishings/toys to be removed from Reception and other classrooms
- Toys and equipment not to be shared
- Small equipment which cannot be cleaned easily must not be used
- Staggered break times with no mixing of groups and lunch will be in classrooms or outside

Whilst this is not a comprehensive list of the requirements, you will appreciate that this will mean your child's experience in school will differ significantly from their usual routine and timetable.

At the same time, we recognise that the specific year groups have been chosen by the government for a reason. They represent key transitional years and there are clearly potential benefits in securing time "in school" for these pupils before the end of the school year. We also recognise the challenges that families have been facing and will continue to face in juggling work commitments and the needs of your children in these difficult circumstances.

In the spirit of transparency, it is important that you are aware that our virtual school will reopen, after half-term, on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June for all year groups and that any child attending school will be accessing this same educational offer in a school setting complying with the conditions outlined earlier in this letter.

Key workers whose children have attended our childcare setting over the past number of weeks will know that we have worked hard to comply with the 2-metre social distancing rule. However our experience over the last two months would suggest that we cannot guarantee this at all times, as our children (especially at play times) want to play together and mix as closely as possible. Nevertheless, we can assure you that we have put measures in place in school for social distancing to be maintained as much as it is practical to do so.

Taking all this into account, our plans remain very much in their infancy and are subject to daily review in the light of information being issued by the Government and the Local Authority. As they stand, our current plans would be to partially reopen for Y6 children on a reduced schedule (for example drop off at 9:00am and collection at 1:00pm). This would allow for less contact with other adults and key worker children who arrive at 8:40am.

After this, we intend to adopt a gradual approach to introducing the other year groups. This will be dependent on two key criteria being met:

- Working within the school's capacity (both in terms of space and staffing); and
- Above all, providing for the safety of the whole school community.





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Subject to these criteria being met, we would potentially look at bringing our Year 1 children back into our school. For example, they would be asked to arrive at 9:15am and stay in school until around 12:30pm. We would then examine the possibility of Reception children attending from 11:45am until approximately 3:00pm.

It must be stressed that these are our initial plans and they remain subject to change. However, we feel it is essential that we keep you informed as much as we possibly can. In the current circumstances, we want you to be assured that, as the government looks to ease the lockdown restrictions, we are adopting a safe, gradual approach for our children, staff and community that will help with the transition back to school. At this point, final dates have yet to be decided as we are still ensuring that our site is properly prepared to accommodate an increased number of pupils and staff.

We remain in regular contact with other schools and the Local Authority to make sure that we are compliant on health and safety matters. Guidance is constantly changing and in a week, restrictions may be different, so please bear with us and look out for further updates on our app and website.

Many thanks for all your support during these difficult times and helping to ensure that all our children, staff, parents, families and local residents stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Anderson

Mr D Moran

Head Teacher

Chair of Governors

