



Sacred Heart RC Primary School

'Where Every Heart is Sacred'

Newsletter 22nd May 2020



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Today would normally be the last day in school before the final summer term. What a term it has been. So many new ways of working have developed over this time but nothing will ever be as great as being together in person as a school community. It has been quite overwhelming to see some of you at Fr Kevin's Zoom Masses and it has been a reminder of what a wonderful community we have within our school and parish.

I hope the children can relax and enjoy their half term and that during this time we will begin to hear more hopeful news of some return to normality.

You should have received my letter with information regarding our plans on the wider reopening of the school. I have attached it to this newsletter as I want to be sure everybody is kept well informed.

Have a happy half term,

God bless

Mrs Walker

Fun in the sun

Key Worker children have been enjoying the sunshine with Miss Dolan at school this week. Relaxing in the sunshine is a top priority these days!! Miss Briggs' class have been making necklaces, name writing, mask making, den making and more!



Anniversary of the Manchester Bomb

Three years ago, on 22nd May 2017, we heard the devastating news of the Manchester bomb. Let's remember together those who lost their lives, the injured and the bereaved. We will pray for those still suffering, that they find some peace.

Remember how we all responded after the bomb? There was an outpouring of compassion and kindness and a reminder of how we should treat each other. It's good to see that hasn't been forgotten during these difficult times. Let's pray it never is...

Be Kind



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all remaining safe and you are keeping well. The past few weeks have been challenging for us all and we have been trying to find a safe way forward so that the children can begin to return to school. We miss them so much and desperately want them back in school; however, their safety is of the utmost importance.

At school, we have been working through the ever changing guidance and advice offered by the government, local authority and Salford diocese in order to help us assess the risks of bringing more children back to school and take action to reduce the risk as much as possible.

Included in this letter is the timetable for phase 1 of the wider reopening of the school. Any plans we make may have to change pending any new developments with the Covid-19 crisis or any new guidance. The first phase of the wider reopening plan only includes year 6 children. The reason we are not yet ready to invite other year groups back to school is that, when we assessed the risks, they were deemed too high. I have attached our detailed risk assessment of phase 1 to help you make an informed decision about whether you should send your year 6 child back to school this term or not.

You will not be pressured to send your child back to school this term and the government have said that there will be no fines issued to parents of children not attending school.

I am sorry that I cannot yet provide parents with children from other year groups a detailed plan on how your child will return to school. When we have completed this first phase of wider reopening, we will review the whole situation with a view to setting dates for increasing the classes returning to school. It is likely that many children will not return until September but if we can get them back to school sooner, safely, we will.

Phase 1. Return of year 6 children beginning June 10th

I need to make it clear that if your year 6 child does return to school in June, it will be a very different experience than they are used to. The changes that we must make are purely to try to reduce the risk of anybody catching or spreading Covid-19. We can't guarantee that this will not happen but we will try to eliminate the risk as much as possible. I have tried to list below some of the changes that your child will experience.

- Children will be encouraged to keep 2 metres distance from others at all times but this cannot be guaranteed – children will find it very difficult.
- Children may be supported by a different teacher and teaching assistant than usual.
- Children will be taught in groups or 'bubbles' of no more than 8.
- Each group or 'bubble' of 8 children will spend all day every day as a self contained unit. They will not mix with other children.
- Children will remain in their 'bubbles' until the end of the term.
- The start and finish of the school day will be staggered, along with lunch and break times.
- The school day will be shorter to allow for staggered start and finish times.
- The school will close each Friday so that deep cleaning can take place and teachers can continue to plan their distance teaching for those still at home.
- There will be no gathering of any more than 8 children. This means that there will be no usual assemblies or such events.
- Children will not be allowed to bring resources into school or share resources they are given.
- Parents, carers and visitors will not be allowed in the school building
- No tactile games will be allowed at playtime

Please take some time to consider the phase 1 timetable and read the risk assessment. You can email me at s.walker@sacredheart-jun.manchester.sch.uk with any comments or questions you may have and I will respond as soon as I can. The date we expect to begin phase 1 is June 10th.

Following on from this letter, I will be writing again to parents of year 6 children to ask if they intend to send their child back to school during our first phase of wider reopening. After I receive responses, I will then prepare a timetable for start dates for those year 6 children returning. I will continue to update all parents each fortnight on any additional plans with regard to the wider reopening of the school. Once again, I want to assure you that you and your children are continuously in my thoughts and prayers. Your support and patience during this difficult time has helped us immensely, so thank you.

God bless, Mrs. Walker