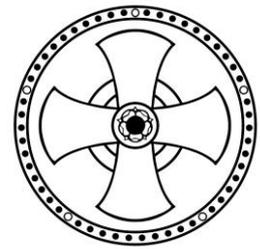




OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
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www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



June 2nd 2020

Re: Update on Wider Opening of the School
Dear Parents and Carers,

I thought I'd write to update you on where we are at Our Lady's, with regards to opening the school up to Years R, 1 and 6. Before I begin I wanted to thank you once again for your continued patience during this crisis. Those of you with friends across Brighton and Hove will be aware that every school is approaching this wider opening in different ways and this can be frustrating and confusing. Everything we are doing at school is with the objective of bringing back our children when we are absolutely sure we can minimize the risk to them, to you and my colleagues who work here.

You'll remember my first consideration was ensuring the cleanliness of the site having not closed since the crisis began. I'm pleased to say that the team involved in deep cleaning the site completed that work this afternoon having begun last Wednesday. My next obstacle was ensuring we kept it clean. Despite having regular cleaners in place, many of you will know that we've been without our legendary school site manager since January, we've missed him enormously. It's taken some time to make sure we have someone with an oversight of the cleaning for us, but again, I'm glad to update you that we've worked with the Local Authority to put this in place from next week.

Thanks to the response from parents we've also been able to look at how we would open the school to more children in a safe way. Understandably, there are plenty of parents of children in R, 1 and 6 who want to see them return in some way. In order to keep us all safe, I'm proposing to the Governors tomorrow that we move forward with our first phase of opening to Year 6. We will split the numbers in half with some attending on Monday and some on Wednesday. This will not occur before the 15th June, which is in line with LA advice released on Friday and also advice from health experts. I'll write to everyone at the end of the week to confirm our arrangements.

Parents of the children returning will be contacted individually nearer the start date. As I outlined in my letter before half term, we'd then evaluate how this was working before widening our provision any further. Parents of Year 1 and R can also expect their groups to be split and children attending on one day per week. As with Year 6 parents, we'd contact the relevant families prior to any starting date to finalise the details. Depending on how these arrangements worked it **might** therefore be possible to bring R, 1 and 6 back in relatively quick succession; but this would depend on how our wider opening works in practice.

I'll be sending the children a video later in the week that will help explain what we've done with our school to make it safer for those returning, but also very different in some ways. I'd encourage parents who are thinking of sending their children back in R, 1 and 6 to watch this with them.

In terms of provision for Year 2,3,4 and 5, I'm afraid we're a way off from a return for these children at the moment and I'm really sad to tell you that. Please be assured that we will still ensure support for these groups via our website. For those involved in remote learning, please do consider the safeguarding messages on our website and make contact if there is anything you need from us.

Kind regards,

Paul Barber
Headteacher

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