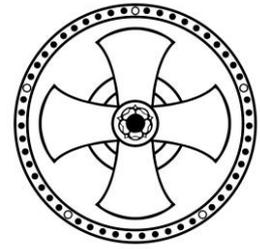




OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
ROTTINGDEAN
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA
www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



June 9th 2020

A Joint Letter from the Head Teacher and Governing Body:

Re: The Wider Opening of Our Lady of Lourdes to Year 6, R and Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you are staying well and that your family remains safe during these really uncertain times. As you will be aware, the staff and governors of our school have been involved in some rigorous planning and risk assessments surrounding widening the numbers of children coming into school. In time, this will include children in Year 6, Reception and Year 1 in addition to Key Workers. Throughout this phased return of children, our priority is the safety of everyone concerned. We are approaching this in a slowly paced phased return that allows us to evaluate each step before opening more widely.

We are particularly aware that for a large proportion of our children and families in Year 2, 3, 4 and 5, there can be a feeling that things are moving on without them and we wanted to reassure you that the provision for these groups will remain very much part of our thinking. We will seek feedback from parents about how we can continue to work together to support the learning and wellbeing of these Year Groups.

As you'll appreciate, the plans we have for widening the opening of our school are dependent on advice from the local authority, so we will communicate as quickly as we can if there are any changes, but at the moment, **it is our intention to begin bringing our first phase of children, in Year 6, back on Monday June 15th**. Below we've detailed how this will work, although further information for parents who indicated in our surveys that their child is set to return will be sent towards the end of the week.

How will the Wider Opening Work?

The numbers of children wishing to return to school is such that we will be splitting Year 6, R and Year 1 into two halves or 'bubbles'. The bubbles will attend for one day per week, beginning with the Year 6 children whose parents have told us in our surveys that they wish their child to return. For those continuing to keep their children at home, work will still be available via our website.

Once we have ensured the safety of staff and students in Year 6, we will widen further and relevant parents will be notified; but this will not happen until it is safe to do so. **We really welcome the support of parents who stipulated that their child will not be returning in keeping them at home and to continue to learn remotely.**

How Will We Ensure Safety?

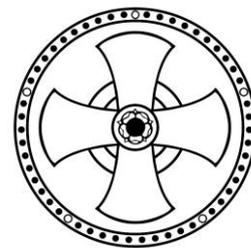
Key worker and vulnerable children will continue to work and take breaks within their own bubble and will not mix with any other group. Similarly, staff will not move between bubbles. Sport will be outside

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Head Teacher: Mr Paul Barber



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where the groups will have specialist provision. There is also no movement between providers: we would not be in a position to support children from other schools, nor would we send our children off site. Breakfast Club and After School provision would also not be running, apart to support Key Worker Children and Vulnerable groups. The bubbles have been arranged by staff to ensure friendship groups are kept intact and the key focus of the work will be centred around the needs of the cohort but will include PSHE, Reading, Maths and Sport. Children will be expected to use social distancing and regular handwashing. Materials won't be sent home nor should they be brought in. Children will be working at their own desk in a designated classroom and with a set complement of staff. We have clear procedures in place to ensure the safety of everyone if a child or adult presents symptoms of the virus. For those who wish to see it, our Risk Assessment to cover this widening of provision is on our website. In order to clearly monitor that Key Worker children and the 'Bubbles' do not mix, we will move to Key Worker children wearing own clothes and 'Bubble' children will be wearing their PE Kit, please.

What Happens Next?

Year 6 Parents who have indicated that they wish their child to return will be contacted prior to the end of the week with details of exactly how this provision will run. Once the SLT are satisfied that the routines are embedded to support a wider opening, parents of children in Year R will be contacted and then, in turn, Year 1. Children not in school will continue to be supported through the website and also through contact with their class teachers.

As we have seen, one of the factors in dealing with this crisis has been that arrangements can change from day to day. Should we be advised by the Local Authority not to open from June 15th to Year 6 due to the risk being too high, we will follow that guidance and postpone. We will communicate to all parents if this is the case so everyone is kept up to date with what is happening.

The arrangements outlined above and the provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable children would stop at the end of term which is Friday July 17th.

With very best wishes,

The Head Teacher and Governing Body.

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