

EMMAUS



Catholic and Church of England Academy

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Headteacher: Helen Simmerson

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience and support over the past few months. It has been hard to communicate clearly to everyone and I know that some of our messages have been confusing.

I hope that this letter will give further clarity.

I also want parents and carers to know that the decisions the Governors and I have made are with the best interests of our children in mind.

Wider reopening of School

Following the announcement on Tuesday 9th June by the Department of Education, I have re thought my plans on the wider reopening of schools from Monday 15th June.

I spoke to the Governors on Wednesday 10th June, as I was concerned that Y2, 3, 4 and 5 pupils may not have been able to return to school for another 3 months. The Governors have agreed to the following.

- FS2, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 on a rota at least one day a week, ideally two.

Parents will need to understand that not all siblings can attend on the same day. **I also need to be very clear that the Governors and I are going above and beyond what we have been asked to do.** To offer this to everyone it means that parents have to accept that we can't change the days or the starting times.

I also want to draw your attention to the fact that things are very different

- Your child may not be in a hub with their friends,
- They may have a teacher they don't know.
- Lunches are eaten in classrooms, and sandwiches only, either a packed lunch or a sandwich provided by school
- There is outside play at lunchtime but the children have to stay in their groups called 'hubs'
- There are lots of new rules that we have to stick to.
- Teaching will happen but it won't be as it was before the lock down.

The Governors and I just feel this is the fairest way for the majority of our families.

Risk Assessment

We have completed a rigorous risk assessment which has been designed by the council. The Governors have approved it. There are lots of new rules and safety measures in place to minimise the risk of anyone at school contracting the corona virus. I need to be very clear that despite following all of the guidelines, **it is still possible that someone at school could get the virus.**

Addendum to the Behaviour Policy

The Governors have agreed an addendum to the Behaviour Policy. Please take time to read it and explain it to your child especially 'The Behaviour in School' section.

Parent Pay

From Monday 15th June **we will no longer accept cash.** School dinners **must** be paid through Parent Pay. Please follow the instructions on the recent letter to register for Parent Pay.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Children eligible for free school meals will now have meals in schools on the days they are in. It will be sandwiches only as the children will need to eat their lunch in class. The vouchers will be available on the days that children are not accessing school eg. vouchers for 3 days. This will be £9 a week for each child who is eligible and wanting the part time place.

Bringing things into school

From Monday 15th June children must not bring anything into school apart from their lunch and a water bottle. Cakes and sweets to share for birthdays cannot be brought in. Also no presents or gifts for staff can be accepted. These are all part of a very strict risk assessment that has been agreed by the council and the governors.

Hand Sanitising Units

20 hand sanitising units and 4 mobile hand sanitising units have now been installed. Soap and water is still considered the best method to clean hands. These units give extra support.

Next Week

Next week could be a challenging week for the children, parents and staff. There are a lot of new rules and safety advice that we have to stick to in order to reopen. There may be problems, communication may at times still be unclear, and some children may really struggle with the new rules.

I am confident that we can work together over the next few weeks to overcome any difficulties and welcome the majority of our children back.

Best wishes
Mrs Simmerson

Other documents attached

- Guidance for Parents and Carers
- Emmaus Hub Rules
- A Booklet to share which may help children with returning to school but is not specifically about Emmaus.
- Addendum to the Behaviour Policy