



St. Philip's
RC Primary School

6th January 2021

Dear Families,

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding over the past couple of days. I am sure that you will appreciate the challenges we have faced and will recognise that we are doing the best that we can to arrange the safest possible school environment for your children, whilst finding ways to provide high quality provision for those working at home and in school.

Today, we have gone through each of the requests made by parents to return their child to school. In total, we have received over 200 requests. The government's definition of key workers is very broad and covers many different job roles. I have had to come to a judgement, which I think is fair, and have considered every single request in detail.

We have now reached the maximum number of places which we have available, to achieve the necessary social distancing and reduce the risk of infection.

Parents Working from Home

I ask you to reflect on the purpose of the national lockdown and the need to stay at home to control the virus and save lives. I do not doubt the challenges that having the children at home has on a parent's ability to focus on their work. However, with the level of support that the school hope to provide, we have a duty to ensure that a proportion of our school staff are also able to work from home, helping to limit the spread of this most virulent form of the virus. We are not immune from infection; many of our staff are vulnerable, are working with large numbers of adults and children, and do not have the option of wearing PPE. When sending your child to school, please consider whether this is entirely necessary. The number of places offered to children will not be increased. Over time, we will be encouraging more parents to switch to the home learning offer.

Next Steps

All children with the offer of a place must return to school tomorrow. Once settled, they will be merged into Year group bubbles. These will be:

In School	At Home	Teacher	
Year 6	Year 6	Mr. Cooper Mr. Marshall	
Year 5 A Year 5 B	Year 5	Mr. Taylor Mrs Moore TBC	
Year 4 Year 3	Year 4 Year 3	Mr Keane Miss Kildunne	Miss Lavelle TBC
Year 2	Year 2	Mrs Welsh Miss Ryman	
Year 1	Year 1	Miss McNamara Miss Sharrock	
Reception	Reception	Miss Guest Mrs Clarke	
Nursery	Nursery	Mrs Flynn Mrs Evans	Mrs Kemp



Those child who have been allocated a key worker place, will be put in their year group bubble with their teacher (or the parallel year group teacher). The rest of this year group will have access to their teacher (or parallel teacher) to support them remotely in their learning. They will be available throughout the day and will be in communication with the children at all times. All children in school and at home will follow the same timetable and complete a full curriculum. Additional staff will be utilised in Y3/4 and Y5.

Google Classroom (Y1-Y6)

From next week, new 'year group' classes will be established and these codes will be shared with children and parents. Staff will alternate between teaching school and home learners each week.

Exercise Books

For those children working at home, exercise books can be collected from school at the following staggered times over the next two days:

	Surname A - H	Surname I - P	Surname Q - Z
Thursday	9:00 – 10:30	10:30 – 12:00	1:00 – 2:30
Friday	9:00 – 10:30	10:30 – 12:00	1:00 – 2:30

Overviews and Communication

An overview of our approach to home learning will be shared with you soon. This will show the level of support that will be available to you and your child throughout the wider closure of the school.

Direct lines of communication with the teacher, for those children working from home, will be available via Google Chat or Tapestry (Nur-Rec). Google Chat should be reserved for practical guidance relating to work. The email addresses of staff will be shared with parents, so that you can contact them directly for general advice or to discuss private matters.

As always, I will keep you updated throughout.

Best wishes



Mr. J. Barrett

Headteacher