



**EAST BRIDGFORD ST. PETER'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY**

'TOGETHER IN ACHIEVEMENT'

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Friday 15th May 2020

St Peter's re-opening plans

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attached is a letter from Mr Skinner (Aspire CEO) about the Government's plans for schools to re-open for Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 from 1st June. You will see from Mr Skinner's letter, that he is very cautious and concerned about the whole process and quite rightly so, because I am too. There are some key points that Mr Skinner writes in his letter:

- As parents/carers of children in those year groups, **it is your choice whether you want to send your child back to school on 1st June or not.** You will all have different opinions on this, but I will stress to you that I will 100% respect, support and understand your decision either way. **You will not be penalised if you don't send your child to school and neither will it affect your child's attendance records.**
- Until schools know the number of children returning to school, Head Teachers cannot confirm whether the places will be on a full time or part time provision basis.
- If you don't want your child to return to school, then schools will still offer the 'learning from home' tasks and daily communication from teachers for those children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6.
- For children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5, they will also continue to be supported in their daily 'learning from home' tasks.
- If your child is in Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5, please do not ask for your child to be re-submitted to school from 1st June. Unless they are categorised as vulnerable or you are a critical key worker, the answer will be 'no'.
- Schools reserve the right to not accept Y6 children back into school and the Government have stated this in their plans. It depends on each school's context, the number of children and the number of staff and how this can be managed safely.

The context of re-opening at St Peter's Academy

I am not prepared to put anyone at risk, because I genuinely care about everyone in our St Peter's family. I need to know that our school environment is practicable, manageable and safe for everyone and once I know the numbers of children, I can plan accordingly. As it stands, with Nursery, Reception, Yr1, Yr6 and key worker children we could potentially have 125 children in school (first stage).

Adhering to the government's social distancing guidelines, this would mean:

- 125 children dispersed into groups of no more than 15. This means each year group will need to be split into these groups and housed in different classrooms.
 - Children wouldn't necessarily be with their familiar teacher or teaching assistant neither would they necessarily be in their own classroom or with their friends.
 - Staggered start/end times to the school day to avoid close contact. Potentially this means reducing the school day to a half day to accommodate different groups.
 - The groups of 15 or bubbles as the government refers to them, will stay together and will have staggered lunch and break times.
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- Reduce movement around the school - groups are to stick to 1 room during the day.
- **Social distancing is impossible in a schools** and this is not guaranteed but risk assessed as high to medium risk with control measures adhered to.

I really don't want to sound negative or oppositional, but I do need you to know that this concerns me greatly and if I have 125 children in school, I will not be happy about opening. This is only because I absolutely care about our St Peter's family, our children, our staff and our families. Stage 2 of re-opening to the entire school (all year groups) is still a distant thought but in risk assessment stage.

What happens now at St Peter's

- If you apply for a place for your child, it is not guaranteed that this will be allocated. Because I cannot open school safely for 125 children with current Government Health and safety strict recommendations (let alone every Year group without reverting to full size classes, up to 30 per classroom and more in Nursery and Reception), places will be allocated to vulnerable children and children of parents who are critical front-line key workers first before I fill the other places.
- By **9.00am on Wednesday 20th May**, I need to know the exact number of places being requested for at least the first week – week beginning 1st June from Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6.
- If your child is in one of those year groups, please email the office office@st-peters.notts.sch.uk to say either **'YES'** you would like your child to have a place for this first week or **'NO'** you don't want a place for your child. Please give your child's name and Year group: see form below
- If we have not heard from you by 9.00am on Wednesday 20th May, then we will assume that you do not want to send your child to school. Please **DO NOT** just bring them in on 1st June as you will be asked to take them home again because we won't have included them in our risk assessment.
- Currently, Every 2 weeks, or as necessary, I will review the situation and school will contact you again to look at places and numbers for the following week.
- You **DO NOT need to email us if your child is in Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5** even if they have siblings in other year groups because we will not be having places for these other year groups.
- As yet, we are not making any decisions about all the other year groups returning on 29th June, as set out by the Government. This is a few weeks away yet and we just don't know how things will look. Also, unless the Government relax the 'maximum 15 children in a classroom' rule, then I cannot accommodate a full school with adequate social distancing.

Key Worker Places

If your child has been in school over the past several weeks because you are a critical front-line key worker, then they will still have their place and we will still continue to organise this on a 2 weekly basis and communicate with you just as we have been doing. You don't need to do anything at this stage, but Mrs Hampson / Mrs Gilmour (in the office) will be in touch with you about your child's place. If their year group is back in they will join their year group.

As of 1st June, if you are returning to work and think you fall into the critical key worker category, you will need to email the office and Mrs Hampson / Mrs Gilmour will send you the application form – note the key workers will also have a room with max. 15 children and we are just about at this number now. Therefore, priority given to front line key workers, both parents where this is the case.

If my child is in school, how will this work?

- Yr 6 may potentially be placed in the hall dependent on numbers. If numbers are large then the group will be split as per the rest of the school.
- Preschool and Reception will stay in the Old Building but we may need to do this on a reduced weekly timetable.
- Yr 1 may stay in their current groups of 13 and 14 respectively and potentially their own classroom.
- In this first week a packed lunch will be required and eaten in the classroom or outside weather permitting.
- Only 1 parent will be allowed to drop off and pick up their child.
- Out of school Club remains closed.
- If anyone has a cough/high temperature/feels unwell at school, they will be sent home and will need to self-isolate for 7 days, or until tested negative.
- First aid, children will be asked to be as independent as possible and self-wipe, plaster, cold compress as far as is reasonable with common sense care from staff. Anything more serious the child will be asked to be collected.
- If it is deemed that a child or young person may not be able to follow instructions, they should stay at home or may be asked to be collected to further reduce risk for everyone else.

This guidance is heart breaking to write as it goes against the school's Take Care ethos. If you are considering sending your child back in, please explain it will not be school as they know it. We do care and we are all doing our very best at this difficult time.

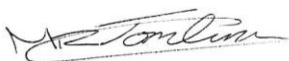
In summary: The welfare, health and safety of our children, staff and parents is the most important thing in all of this. All you need to do is inform the office if you want to send your child to school or not on the week beginning 1st June. Once I have the numbers of children for this first week, I will then make a decision about how any re-opening of school on the 1st June will look. I will let you know my decision in due course.

I really do hope you understand why I am so cautious and uneasy with the re-opening situation and that I have our St Peter's family at the heart of my decisions. Believe me, I would love us all to be back together, but I do have to be very cautious with this next stage.

If you have any questions, please email the office and I will do my best to respond with an answer.

My thanks again for your patience in all of this.

Take Care



Mr Tomlinson

Head Teacher