



Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you regarding the school's plan to extend its provision to children in the year groups set out by the government last week. The Local Authority have charged schools with putting into place a range of safeguards to enable this to happen between 1st and 15th June. **At this moment the school is unable to provide a definitive date of when it will be ready to re-open.** I want to assure you that school leaders, which include the school governors, the headteacher and members of the senior leadership team have been working on a plan, since the government announced the phased re-opening of schools, to maximise the safety of staff and pupils when the school re-opens. This has involved and continues to involve extensive collaboration with the Local Authority and Unions. As you can imagine it is very difficult to find a solution that meets the demands and expectations of all parties.

The plan, when finalised will include all the recommendations as set out by the Department for Education and will include;

- Limiting the year groups that will be able to return to school.
- Creating smaller groups of 10 or less to support with social distancing.
- This smaller group will remain with the same adult in what is commonly known as 'a bubble'.
- This will mean that your child may not be taught by their class teacher.
- A system for staggered start times, finish times and a one-way system through the car park will be introduced to ensure the 2m social distancing rule is adhered to.
- There will be staggered breaks and lunchtimes to ensure that 'bubbles' do not mix and it is likely that children will eat in their classroom.
- All soft furnishings will be removed from the classrooms and children will be provided with their own pack of resources.
- Resources such as construction toys, Lego and counting material will be available to younger children and these will be cleaned and replaced regularly throughout the day.
- Learning areas will be cleaned regularly.
- Children and staff will regularly wash their hands and safe hygiene practices will be reinforced with the children.
- A system for dropping off and picking up the children will be introduced that meets the expectations for social distancing.

All of this will be implemented with great care and sensitivity to ensure the children have, as normal a routine as possible and, an enjoyable return to school. We will listen to your concerns and address these with you. Please be assured that no pressure will be put on you to return your child to school and that school leaders are here to support you and your child with the phased return.

There are many considerations for preparing to re-open which include detailed risk assessments, the purchase and organisation of resources and staff deployment. School leaders continue to work with all staff, Unions, the Local Authority and the Diocese to maximise the health, safety and well-being of all the community.

KEY WORKERS

We are aware that more people will be returning to work after half term. We will continue to provide for the families of key workers regardless of the year group that your child is in. If you have not been sending your child to school but will need to after half term because you are a key worker please let the school know by sending an email to admin@olovrc.com so that we can make adequate preparations. We are here to help and support you through this transition from 'lockdown'.

I would like to thank the whole school team for their extraordinary hard work and commitment to a very different way of working since the lockdown. I would also like to applaud the children for their resilience and you, our parents/carers, for all that you have done to support the remote learning process.

I hope to be able to update you in the near future about any changes that may occur. In the meantime the systems that are in place will remain in place.

May God keep you safe from harm today and always!

Best wishes



Miss K. Coll / Headteacher



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