



St Barnabas C of E Primary School  
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Headteacher: Miss K Boardman (BSc Hons)

*"Barnabas, the Encourager"*

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Wider re-opening of school**

We have been working to put our plans in place for the wider re-opening of schools and I am now in a position to give you more information about this.

We have been working with the guiding principle that we will only open St Barnabas to more pupils if we are satisfied the risks have been minimised according to government guidance.

**The health and safety of staff and pupils is our top priority.**

Whilst making our plans, we have considered the safety measures that need to be put in place, staff availability (some staff are not able to return to due health needs), parental views and capacity of the school building amongst other issues. In order to maintain satisfactory distancing, there will be limits to the number of children who can attend.

After much planning and reflection, I have made the decision that **we will not be opening more widely to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

Our **proposed plans**, should the government decide that conditions are met for schools to re-open are as follows:

- Week beg 1<sup>st</sup> June: Promote and encourage increased attendance of children of key workers and vulnerable children. This includes children who we consider to be 'vulnerable', not just children with social workers.

Depending on our remaining capacity, we will then begin to reintroduce children to school gradually, in a phased way, starting with the youngest children as set out below.

**Children in these year groups will only attend on a part time basis.**

**School will be closed to these children on a Friday** to allow time for deep cleaning and for teachers to deliver remote learning for children who aren't attending school.

- Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest : Reception children begin to return - mornings only for at least part of the week.
- Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest: Year 1 children begin to return – mornings only for at least part of the week.

Unfortunately a date cannot be given at the moment for children in year 6 to return. This will depend on numbers of children who have returned in other year groups and staff availability. I am really hoping that we will be able to invite the Year 6 children back before the end of the summer term even if it is for a short period of time.

I want to emphasise these steps will be taken extremely cautiously, year group by year group, and only when we are confident to do so.

The government has not produced plans for the return of other year groups so we are not able to plan for this at the moment.

If you are a **key worker** and you think that you will need a place for your child before the summer holidays, please email [stbarnabas@york.gov.uk](mailto:stbarnabas@york.gov.uk) as soon as possible with details so that we can have an idea of numbers. Unless there is enough demand, breakfast and after school club will not be available. If children attend school in the 'key worker' group, they will not be able to join their year group at a later date as children are not able to mix between groups under the current guidance.

When children do return to school, the classrooms will look different to when they last saw them. We recognise that children and parents may be anxious about a return to school. One of the reasons for our slower approach to wider re-opening is to have time to give children and parents a lot more detail about what school will be like for a particular year group (e.g. pictures of the classroom) and to answer any of your questions. We want children (and parents) to feel happy and confident about returning to school.

The attached [information sheet](#) gives information about the measures that will be in place to keep everyone safe in school but more specific details will be given before a class returns.

We have been looking at an approach called the 'SWAN' framework to help children, staff and parents in this unsettling time as we return to school. More information is in the [newsletter](#) attached.

Attached is [a poster](#) from the educational psychology service who are offering a helpline for parents every Thursday morning starting next week.

Remote learning will continue after half term but need to be reduced when teachers are needed in school. Formal work will not be set next week so everyone can enjoy a break and some hopefully lots of outdoor activities.

I will continue to keep you informed of progress as this situation continues to unfold.

If you have any feedback or questions about any of this information, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing [stbarnabas@york.gov.uk](mailto:stbarnabas@york.gov.uk)

With best wishes,



Miss K Boardman  
Headteacher