

20th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re-opening of school for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children

Since the Government announcement last week regarding their desire for primary schools to take in additional children potentially from 1st June, we have been busy working out different scenarios for how the re-opening of the school will work at St. Bede.

The Government acknowledges the difficulty of social distancing children. The following extract from ***implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings*** issued by the Government on 12th May states ...

“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures by:

- *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms,*
- *frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices,*
- *regular cleaning of settings,*
- *minimising contact and mixing.”*

We firstly want to reassure parents and carers that the safety of staff, pupils and parents have been at the centre of our plans. A thorough risk assessment has been drawn up and is available to view on our website **www.stbedeacademy.org**, within the Coronavirus Updates section. The assessment reflects the requirement by the Government to maintain social distancing wherever possible and ensure adequate hygiene practise is followed. It cannot assess the risks of contracting Covid-19 from this contact (or contact which occurs outside of school), or the risk of developing health complications from contracting Covid-19.

Children will be put into small learning and social 'bubbles' of between 8 - 11 children and this 'bubble' will stay together throughout the day. This is to support social distancing guidelines. However, even though we have tried to think of every eventuality, we cannot guarantee that 'bubbles' will be kept separate from each other, nor that children and staff will maintain a two metre distance at all times, in particular with children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 where learning is delivered through play and socialising. We also cannot guarantee social distancing when children are on the yard at break-times, however we will do our best.

PLEASE TURN OVER

Learning, Caring, Growing Together

Head of School: Mrs S. Rostron

St Bede Primary Academy, Morris Green Lane, Bolton, BL3 3LJ

Telephone: 01204 61899 Website: www.stbedeacademy.org Company Registered Number: 07628909

We have a high numbers of Key Worker pupils and high demand for the uptake up of places in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Due to our classroom and staffing constraints we are able to offer part-time places for children in these year groups. Part-time places will be available for mornings and afternoons, but will not include lunchtimes. This is to reduce the number of children on the yard and in the dining hall at lunchtime. **Children of Key Workers however will still be entitled to full time places.** If you have not taken up this place but now require it, please send an email to parentkeyworker@stbedeacademy.org. Evidence of Key Worker status will need to be provided, if not already done so.

The phased re-opening of school is planned to start from Monday 8th June, after the half term break. This date is dependent on Government, medical and scientific advice which we are assessing as soon as it is issued. The final decision as to whether we open for the additional year groups from 8th June will be made by our Multi Academy Trust Board of Directors, once they assess all the relevant advice available to them.

Key workers have already communicated with the OOSC if they need a place over May half term and this is now full. **We completely understand if you feel uncomfortable about sending your child/children into school and you will not be fined or penalised for this if you choose not to. In this scenario please continue with the home learning packs available on our website and the activities set on Twitter.**

For parents who have indicated that they are happy for their child to return to school, we will contact them individually via email with the times that their child/children can attend. If you have not already done so, please send your email address to parents@stbedeacademy.org.

'Frequently Asked Questions' regarding the re-opening of school can be found on the Coronavirus Updates section on our website. If you have a question which does not appear on the FAQs please send an email to parents@stbedeacademy.org. We will respond to questions individually and also add them to the FAQs.

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this model after the first week and make any necessary changes to better support pupils education and safety.

Hope you and your families are all safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Rostron
Head of School

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