

**Thursday May 21st 2020**

**Dear Parents,**

**Proposed Phased Reopening of St. Bede's RC Primary School South Shields**

This letter will set out the plan for the proposed phased reopening of our school. As stated in the letter you will have received from Mike Conlon, Corporate Director of Children, Adults and Health, and Cllr Moira Smith, Lead Member for Children, Adults and Families, the council is working with all schools in South Tyneside on risk assessments in order to ensure the safety of children and staff coming back into the school. The council states that it will only support a phased reopening of the school if the Government's five tests are met and the school's risk assessments are passed. The safety and well-being of children and staff remains the utmost priority.

**Week Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>**

1. School will be open Monday to Friday, as it has been since 23<sup>rd</sup> March, for children of key workers whose parents' work is vital to the nation's response to COVID-19 – **start time 8.50 a.m./finish time 3.15 p.m.**

**Week Beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Start and finish times must be adhered to in order to ensure social distancing in the school grounds.**

1. School will be open to **key workers' children** as usual from Monday to Friday with a start time **of 8.30 a.m. and finish time 3.15 p.m.**
2. **Reception** pupils will return to school in groups/ 'bubbles' of 7-8 pupils.
  - Bubble A will attend only on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> at **8.45 a.m. and finish at 2.30 p.m.**
  - Bubble B will attend only on Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> at **8.45 a.m. and finish at 2.30 p.m.**
  - Bubble C will attend only on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> at **8.45 a.m. and finish at 2.30 p.m.**
  - Bubble D will attend only on Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> at **8.45 a.m. and finish at 2.30 p.m.**

Your child will be with the same teacher each time they attend school. Each bubble will have either Miss Dixon or Mrs Hill, plus another member of staff. You will be advised of your child's bubble by text message. We have made sure that sibling links have been accounted for in the 'bubbles'. We will also advise you, nearer the time, what to do if you have children with different starting and finishing times as this applies to a limited number of families.

3. **Year 1** pupils will return to school in groups/'bubbles' of 7-8 pupils
  - Bubbles A and B will attend only on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> at **9 a.m. and finish at 2.45 p.m.**
  - Bubbles C and D will attend only on Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> at **9 a.m. and finish at 2.45 p.m.**

Your child will be with the same teacher each time they attend school. Each bubble will have either Mrs. Clements, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Dunn or Mrs. Molenda.

## **Week Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>**

1. School will be open to **key workers' children** as usual from Monday to Friday with the same start and finish times as week beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>
2. **Reception** pupils will attend as above with the same start and finish times as week beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>
3. **Year 1** pupils will attend as above with the same start and finish times as week beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Year 6** pupils will return to school in groups/'bubbles' of 7-8 pupils  
Bubble A and Bubble B will attend only on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at **9.15 a.m. and finish at 3 p.m.**  
Bubble C and Bubble D will attend only on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at **9.15 a.m. and finish at 3 p.m.**

Your child will be with the same teacher each time they attend school. Each bubble will either have Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Mackley, Mrs. Waters or Mrs. Welsh.

5. **Nursery** pupils will return to school in groups/'bubbles' of 6-7 pupils. They will be offered a morning and an afternoon session on different days.  
Bubble A will attend Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> from **9.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.**  
Bubble B will attend Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> from **12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**  
Bubble B will attend Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> from **9.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.**  
Bubble A will attend Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> from **12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**  
Bubble C will attend Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> from **9.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.**  
Bubble D will attend Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> from **12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**  
Bubble D will attend Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> from **9.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.**  
Bubble C will attend Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> from **12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Your child will be with the same teacher each time they attend school. Each bubble will either have Miss Storey or Mrs. Miller in it as well as another member of staff.

We realise that Y6 finish time is the same as Nursery finish time but arrangements are in place to inform you nearer the time of where to collect Y6 pupils in the school grounds away from Nursery pupils.

## **Week beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The above rota will remain in place for key workers' children and pupils from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The school will then take advice from the local authority and the DfE on the proposed expansion of reopening to the remaining year groups from the end of June/early July.

By limiting the numbers of pupils in school we are able to adhere to our risk assessments, and also leave capacity for the further phasing-in of the remaining year groups.

Even though pupils in Years Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be in school for a limited time each week, it means that teachers will be able to better support their learning.

I know it will be difficult for those pupils who are in the year groups that are not yet returning but we are following the government's guidance. For these year groups and those children whose parents do not wish their children to attend, the home learning will continue, as will the phone calls home that we have been making to some pupils throughout the school closure period and are now making

to all pupils. Mrs. McVittie is also setting up Google Classroom so that staff can support home learning and communication between themselves and pupils throughout the remainder of the summer term. We will write to you shortly about this.

Please carefully consider all the information contained in this letter. If, after reading this letter, you are still unsure about when your child/ren in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should be returning to school, please email [info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk). Please wait to receive your text message with information about in which bubble/s your child/ren have been placed.

More detailed information about arrangements for collection points for the children, as well as other logistical information relating to the phased reopening of the school, will be sent to you during the week beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.

I appreciate your patience in waiting for the information contained in this letter. I and all the staff at the school appreciate your support and consideration during these very difficult times that we are living through together. Please be assured that, despite the school day looking very different to normal, our warmth of welcome and pleasure in seeing the children will remain very much the same.

With very best wishes,

N. Park

Headteacher