

The Newman Catholic Collegiate



St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy
Little Chell Lane
Tunstall
Stoke on Trent
ST6 6LZ

Telephone: 01782 883036
Email: ibeardmore@stmarnsnewman.co.uk

Accounting Officer: Mr Ian Beardmore

Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I promised that I would write to you as soon as we receive details about safely returning your child to school. Since the announcement this Sunday, all the Principals have worked hard on the logistics of how this will be possible. We have planned a phased approach to the reopening. Due to this, I am now in a position to inform you that we are satisfied that we can meet the government guidelines to reopen the primary schools across the Collegiate to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children on 1st June. I need to be clear, this is only if the Government say that we are allowed to do so.

Initially, all our Nursery children will only be allowed in for ½ a day and this will be either morning or afternoon including lunch for both groups. Other children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, although not for the entire school day due to the need of staggered start and end of day times will be in for a substantial part of the day including lunch. All the schools will also be open for the children of critical workers and those who are classed as vulnerable, who have been sending their children during the closure. More details of timings will be sent by individual Principals closer to the time.

I have asked the teachers to continue to send home learning for all the children currently not permitted to be in school.

As you know, our first priority is the health and safety of the children and staff. I ask you to read the below information as provided by the Government. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

You should not send your child to school if you or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of coronavirus. If this is the case, please inform school immediately. The government has announced that once schools are open again (currently from 1st June for key classes), staff and pupils in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their household. This will enable children and young people to return to education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect all the children and staff.

Children in school will be placed into groups of no more than 15. They will have staff allocated to their group. The children will remain in these groups for the remainder of the term. Please do not ask for your child to move groups as this will NOT be possible.

The Government have issued clear guidance that Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs

or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. Therefore, we will not allow children into school with any form of face covering.

If your child or anyone in your household is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, please contact school to discuss how we can support you. However, these children must NOT attend school.

When the schools reopen, children will be expected to attend in school uniform and it will be expected that this will be washed daily. Individual schools will give further guidance as full uniform will not be required.

Finally, I assure you that we will do our utmost to provide a safe and caring environment for your child. Some of this time will be used to support transition into their new classes/schools ready for September.

I will contact you again once I receive more details about the other children returning to our schools. Please wait for our Principals to write with further details and arrangements for your child's return.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your fantastic support.

God bless



Senior Executive Leader

Useful documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

*Vulnerable child definition:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>
