

# THE ST CHARLES' COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

*"Bring Forth Christ"*



**Determination Friendship Good Manners Respect Responsibility**

## **DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEK**

Thank you for all the responses I have had to the letter I sent out last week. I've been in contact with some parents to ensure I have all of the most up-to-date information to aid in the finer details of the plan for the reopening. I must apologise to those parents who have confirmed their child's attendance. In my original letter I wrote that I would be in contact on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May to confirm the groups children would be in and when they would be attending. Unfortunately I have not been in a position to do this. As this week has progressed, there have been a few elements of the risk assessment I've needed to discuss with Governors and advisers from Lancashire to make sure we minimise the risk as much as we can. **We can never completely eradicate the risk posed by Coronavirus/Covid-19.** I'm now in the process of consulting with staff to ensure there's no area of the reopening of St. Charles' RCP School to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 we've not covered in this document. Once this process has been completed, I'll be sharing the groupings arranged for when we return and I'll share the risk assessment on our school website and through our usual channels of communication. Any comments or queries you have on this can be shared with myself. Risk Assessments are ever-evolving documents which are constantly being reviewed and updated.

However, I must highlight a couple of developments.

1. We are moving the day we are reopening to the children to Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This is to allow all staff to be onsite on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to ensure the site is as safe as it can possibly be and understand the content of our Risk Assessment.
2. There is information (below) we've added to the front page of the risk assessment to clarify risks involved:

*In order to be in a position to consider wider reopening to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children, we have made the provisions set out in this document. Our priority is the health and safety of our community. Our partial re-opening is based on the guidance from the UK Government released to the public on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and matched to the needs and capacity of our school.*

*Through the planning and risk assessment process, we aim to ensure the children return with an education focus instead of school facilitating a childcare service. Through this approach we aim to minimise the risk of transmission and infection. **Unfortunately we can never completely eliminate this and so there is always the risk of transmission and infection within school.***

*Through re-opening in an education-focussed environment and by putting a number of restrictive measures in place, e.g. isolating groups of children to certain parts of school, we cannot completely guarantee that we can isolate the various groups we have on site for a number of reasons. Families have children in more than one group who will mix at home, staff have children returning who will be in a different group to them and some teachers are planned to teach a morning group and an afternoon group.*

*Part of the restrictive measures we are putting in place to manage this risk include the regular washing of hands, 2 metre gaps between children working and the isolating of individuals and their families within school if they show symptoms. I don't feel as though any school, no matter what measures they put in place, can truly eliminate all risks.*

As a result of this, we are having to put strong measures in place in case we have a positive test of Covid-19 within school. If a child is symptomatic of Covid-19 then the group they are part of will be shut down until a test is carried out. Staff and children in schools are now eligible for tests and so one can be sourced within days. If a test is positive, the whole school site will be shut down to minimise the risk of this virus spreading. If the test is negative, the child and their group may return.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support for all we are doing during these times.

Mr P Kennedy  
Acting Head teacher

## MARY AND THE MONTH OF MAY

Our children have had a lovely time thinking about and celebrating Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The children have been busy making prayer books and boxes, crowns for the statues of Mary we have in school and stained glass styled artwork in honour of Our Lady. It has also been good to see some of the things you've been up to at home.



We offer this decade of the Rosary for all those affected by the coronavirus and we ask the help of Our Blessed Mother, Mary, to take our prayers to her beloved son, Jesus.



## HALF-TERM

Next week is half-term and school will be closed. Our Key Worker parents have all been contacted and have managed to source alternative care or have booked some well-earned time off work to spend time as a family. Thank you to all of you for allowing our school staff time away from school to recharge their batteries ready for the return to school in June.

As it is half-term, there will be no work packs sent out for completion. If you are looking for something to do (and there's no pressure whatsoever from school), there are a range of resources which can be found within the Covid-19 section of our school website. We have got sections containing:

- Past weekly themed ideas (including Up and Active, Wildlife Week and VE Day);
- PE activities to be done at home; and
- Extra Work Ideas

I'll also be updating the 'Extra Work Ideas' section with some other resources parents have shared with us in recent times.

Please use the half-term week to rest as best you can, spend some time (safely) in the sunshine we've been forecast (I hope I haven't jinxed that) and prepare for whatever June and July are going to throw our way.

Care for one another  
during the  
Coronavirus pandemic

