



St Bertoline's C of E Primary School

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE - 26th MAY 2020

YEAR 6 UPDATE

It has been brought to my attention that a few parents have specific queries in relation to the situation regarding the potential return to school and transition of our Year 6 cohort.

As I am sure you can all appreciate there are no straightforward easy answers to any of the questions being asked, but I will attempt to explain our thinking.

As planned, we will take each year group in turn and reflect on the situation as it evolves. Pre-school first, then Reception, then Year 1. It is at this point we will begin to consider Year 6 being invited to return to school. The decision will be highly dependent on how many of those already invited take up the offer. If only a small number of parents feel confident enough to send their children back to school when invited, then we can go ahead with inviting Year 6. If, however, the majority have chosen to return to school then we will have used up both our classroom accommodation and our staffing capacity. Classroom accommodation must provide for 2m social distancing and staffing numbers will not be increased by employing 'unknown' supply teachers who are not familiar with St Bert's.

As you can see, we are very much dealing with the unknown regarding the numbers. Many parents are stating they do not wish for their child to return to school, but we feel this may change as confidence grows and the new 'normal' becomes second nature. We certainly anticipate a large increase in demand for keyworker places from 31st May.

Unfortunately, the government started making announcements prior to completely thinking through the implications and issues raised by their decisions. They have now begun to consult more readily with headteacher groups and education consultants and realise that the situation will be different for every school.

As a school, we will take each step in a very measured way and review our situation daily. Health and safety considerations will remain paramount.

What we do know is that we would very much love to welcome our Year 6 children back to school and to say a proper goodbye before they go onto high school. The high schools have all be in touch with St Bert's and we have already shared lots of valuable information pertaining to individual children. As yet, I am unaware as to what the various high schools are planning for their actual physical transition of pupils, but I would like to think that they have a plan in place and that they will share this plan with parents in due course.

Of course, all of our planning no matter how detailed relies on the decision which will be made on 28th May which will inform us as to the government's plans as to whether they will open up schools to those other than keyworker children. Watch this space!

I hope I have answered your queries and clarified our position. Please continue to correspond with the teachers. I hope the government targets are met and so allow for the extended opening of schools - we miss the children immensely!

God Bless!

Julie Barron