



St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary School

“Love, Learn & Grow together”

Head Teacher: Mr A Tremarco
163 Utting Avenue East,
Liverpool. L11 1DB
T: 0151 226 5018
F: 0151 270 1300
E: admin-ao@stteresas.co.uk
www.stteresaoflisieux.co.uk

26th May 2020

To All Parents & Carers

Dear Parents & Carers,

Possible Re-Opening of School - Update

I am writing to update you with regard to our plans to re-open school on Monday 8th June. Currently, at the time of writing, it is not certain we will be open at all as we await an announcement from the government regarding their 5 key tests being met and the Local Authority agreeing with them.

As per my letter to parents dated 19th May 2020, circulated on Parent App and our school website, all our planning is around a possible re-opening on 8th June just for **key worker families only who have already registered with us by Thursday 21st May 2020**. Parents had to register to come in on this date as we are now on a two week shut down and we have to plan staffing for 8th June in advance as not all staff will be in school. If you have not registered please do not come to school on 8th June as we will not have the staff available. We are working on reduced staffing at the present time as we have staff who are shielding themselves and government guidelines make clear schools should be operating on minimal staffing to reduce the risk of spreading Covid19.

Year 6 parents have also been surveyed via our Parent App (reminders were also sent out before the deadline of Friday 22nd May) to find out how many pupils intend to come back to school if we are open on Monday 15th June, following a Local Authority review the week before. Reduced staffing will again be in place for the above reasons.

No other year groups are currently planned to return to school at the time of writing. Various reviews will take place in June and we will follow Local Authority guidance on their plan going forward nearer to the time.

You have probably read in the press about what schools will look like when re-opened and our school will indeed be very different. I have outlined some of the measures I will have to take below.

- children will be with one teacher in one small group (maximum of 12 depending on the size of the room), not necessarily their own teacher
- they will be in a classroom that will not necessarily be their own classroom
- they will have to remain in that classroom for the duration of the day. They cannot mix with the groups of children in the other classrooms (bubbles) at any time including playtimes, which will be staggered for different groups





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- in classrooms (bubbles), they will sit at a desk just for themselves individually, where the children will be spaced apart. Their classrooms (bubbles) will have all unnecessary equipment and all soft furnishings removed.
- learning in the classroom will reflect home learning for all other children not in school, as much as possible
- staff will have to keep a social distance from the children
- reading books/homework will not be sent home
- lunches will be packed lunches only (we will provide a packed lunch to those who want a school lunch and those on free school meals) and eaten in classrooms as we cannot fit the children in the hall in sufficient numbers for a hot lunch. Packed lunches reduce the risk of spreading Covid19 and this follows the national guidance.
- in classrooms (bubbles) the bins will be emptied and desks will be cleaned throughout the day. The classroom (bubble) will be cleaned at the end of the day
- additional cleaning throughout the day of all communal areas will take place
- children will clean their hands on arrival to school and throughout the day using soap/water in their classroom (bubble)
- **children will be in school uniform** and this will need to be a **clean uniform each day** to reduce the risk of spreading Covid19. On a Wednesday we are planning to have PE so pupils will be able to come in to school in a PE kit only on a Wednesday.
- when any other equipment is used it will then need to be cleaned before other children use or touch it
- if you want your child to have a water bottle you will need to send one in each morning and make sure it is taken home and cleaned before the following day
- outside play equipment will not be able to be used as it is recommended these are cleaned afterwards but we would not have that facility or staff to do that at this stage
- children will have an allocated space for their bubble – they must remain in this space during outdoor playtimes
- **only one parent will be able to drop off/collect their child**, this will be on the main playground, with your child taken directly to their classroom (bubble).
- the **start of the school day will be staggered from 8:45 – 9:15** so parents can adequately social distance whilst dropping off their child.
- **The end of the school day will be staggered from 2:45-3:10** so parents can adequately social distance whilst picking up their child.
- There will be tape on the playground floor to measure 2m distance outside classrooms (bubbles) so parents can social distance. Please respect this space, including when dropping off/collecting your child and interacting with staff – this is very important
- Parents will not be able to enter the school building or have the daily contact they need or are used to having with staff. Contact will continue to be by telephone/email
- there will be no Breakfast Club





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- there will be no After School Club or clubs of any kind
- **Year 6** will not be able to have a leavers Mass, assembly or party, although we will come up with some way to celebrate the end of their time at St. Teresa of Lisieux
- there will be no visits or trips during the half term
- there will be no sports day
- no assemblies
- no adult visitors in to school

As you can see, this will be nothing like the St. Teresa of Lisieux as we know it, and does not support the family ethos that we provide here. Much has been made about the impact on mental health and well-being of children who are not attending school. This is important. I have concerns about the impact of some of these measures on returning children, who will be expecting our school to be the same as when they left us in late March. As you can see, it simply will not be the same!

The government has stated that there will be no fines or sanctions for non-attendance, and I will absolutely support all parents' decisions.

We can't wait to have our wonderful school back to normal, but this is not possible yet.

Keep safe,

Head teacher

