

St Laurence Church Infant School

Newsletter

Issue 13 June 2020



Bringing back more children to school.

Updated guidance for schools from government published on 15 June gives headteachers and school leaders the ability to invite back additional children if - having invited back the pupils in eligible year groups - they are able and feel ready to do so within the existing guidance. The safety guidelines have not changed.

Our first eligible groups are the vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Next, as we are an infant school, are the Reception children and here at St Laurence Infant School children in Reception began returning to classrooms on 8 June.

The next eligible group we could bring back would be Year 1. We would love to do this but we do not have the capacity to do so and follow existing guidelines and ensure protective measures are in place, including limiting class sizes to no more than 15 children. The existing guidelines say we should not use a rota system and the protective measures say that we cannot have teachers teaching different bubbles.

However, we hope that we may be able to have the children in Year 1 and 2 back for a short end of year session on Monday 20th July.

At the moment it seems that the message from the government is that schools will not be open during the summer to provide care for key workers' children. This means for Key Worker and Vulnerable children and children in Reception this term would finish as planned on Friday 17th July .

We would like to use Monday 20th July, a teacher training day, as an opportunity to invite Year 1 and 2 into school for an hour, in groups of no more than 15 ,to finish the year, see some of their classmates and their teacher and in the case of Year 2 say goodbye to the teachers and the infant school.

It would be up to parents to decide if they want their children to attend. We would very much like to see them but will respect parental decisions.

Details to follow about staggered start times etc unless government announcements make this plan impossible.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey about the September return of children to school. The overwhelming consensus was that parents would prefer two full days each week. We are hopeful that arrangements will not require this.

Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) and Boris Johnson said at the weekend that **all** pupils will return in September. Their promise is that the government will publish **further guidance** in the next **two weeks** so 'schools have the maximum amount of time to prepare for the next phase of welcoming children back.' When we know more about the arrangements for children's return in September we will let you know but we are currently optimistic that all children will be back full time providing there is no worsening of the coronavirus situation.

Some sad goodbyes

Mrs Jo Griffin has been a teacher here since 1989. She is a valued and respected member of the team who has served the school with dedication and commitment. Mrs Griffin has decided that the time has come for her to stop work and she is leaving the school at the end of term. She will be greatly missed and I know that everyone who knows her, who has worked alongside her, who has been taught by her, who has had children taught by her, will join me in wishing her the very best for the future.

Mr Daniel Masood has been covering Mrs Hegarty's maternity leave and as Mrs Hegarty is returning he will be leaving us at the end of term. He established excellent relationships with the children in his class and has contributed to the school's response to the coronavirus situation with professionalism and flexibility. We will miss him and wish him good luck with his future career.

Teacher Training Days for next school year.

Tuesday 1st September 2020
Wednesday 2nd September 2020
Friday 23rd October 2020
Monday 4th January 2021
Wednesday 21st July 2021