



**St Michael & St John's RC Primary School**  
**Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG**  
**Headteacher: Mrs Zoe Mabbott BEd (Hons) NPQH**

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### *Split screen*

*'Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another to be the best we can be.'*

21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we write this difficult letter, please keep in mind that all decisions being taken by the Governing Board and school staff have everyone's safety at the very heart.

Following my letter on Friday, we would like to thank all the families who have responded and also thank you for all the positive comments received both in relation to the home learning and welfare checks and also for your understanding in relation to the difficult position we are in as a school, wanting to be back with our children but needing to ensure their safety and the safety of the staff.

The Governing Board and staff have held a number of meetings to discuss our circumstances and assess risks. We are sure you will appreciate it is a complex process of finding out information, prioritising safety and assessing all risks.

We appreciate many of our families are beginning to or are already going back to work, but we need to stress the following in order to provide you with clarity. We apologise if it seems blunt, that is not our intention, but we do not want to be in a position where parents think there is a place at school for their child if this is not manageable or safe:

**We will not be in a position to safely welcome back all children in EYFS, Y1 and Y6 immediately from 1<sup>st</sup> June. We aim to take a measured and staged approach to increasing numbers so that we can ensure that the systems can manage and all are safe. This means that on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, only some additional children will be returning to school.**

The DFE has determined that the priority for school places is as follows:

Children of key workers

Vulnerable children

EYFS

Y1

Y6



The date of the 1<sup>st</sup> June given by the government is a date FROM which not ON which, schools would consider opening to more pupils. As we are sure you are aware, some councils have taken the decision not to re-open their schools. We will take a slow and measured approach. A letter from the Director of Education for Salford Diocese is attached and is also on the front page of the school website.

I hope the following information will help with clarity.

Date	School Situation
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	School is only open to children who have already been attending in May and have booked a place. No additional children today. Staff planning, preparation and training.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	School is only open to children who have already been attending in May and have booked a place. No additional children today. Staff planning, preparation and training.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Bubbles will begin but on a small scale so we can assess our procedures and check all are safe before increasing numbers too quickly. You will be informed if you can bring your child on this day. We will be prioritising children of two key worker families.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Bubbles will begin but on a small scale so we can assess our procedures and check all are safe before increasing numbers too quickly. You will be informed if you can bring your child on this day. We will be prioritising children of two key worker families.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	School is closed on this day for all children. Staff must be provided with PPA and a full deep clean will take place. A governing board and staff debrief and review of all risk assessments, procedures and policies will take place before decisions are finalised about the following week.

School will be closed every Friday.

## **Our School Logistics**

We are able to staff 6 usable rooms/spaces in our school and for transparency we are providing you with the number of children who can safely fit in each room as follows

Room	Approx. No of children fitting with safe space for the adult
Hall (Y2)	Government maximum of 15
EYFS	12
Y1	10
Y3	6
Y5	8
Y6	8
Pendle Room	Isolation room for illness

Based on our available staff numbers (we have some staff who are not in school) and our room sizes, we have had many more requests for Key Worker children than we can safely accommodate.

We will therefore be contacting all families who have requested a place to ascertain job roles and the days childcare is needed so we can plan further.

With the number of Key Worker requests we have had, regrettably, at this point we are not able to provide places for any children in any year group including EYFS, Y1 and Y6 who are not children of Key Workers.

### **Learning**

I would like to reassure you that whether the children are in school or not, they will be provided with the same learning tasks. Teachers in school will be setting the children off on the same task those at home are working on. To keep a safe 2m distance teachers will not be circulating or teaching individual children.

### **Further Information to Follow**

Further letters will be sent and we will share some photographs and we intend to produce a video so you can show your child what school looks like. It is a different place and has different rules than when they left and we do not want any children to be upset by this.

Further information will also be sent regarding lunchtimes, staggered drop off and collection times, exits and entrances to use, the use of PPE, our updated behaviour policy

All this is based on current government advice, which as you know might change if the R rate increases or based on their own advice.

We also politely remind you that places are only available in the priority order for days when there is not an adult at home who can look after the children. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer need a place, please let us know as planning is extremely complex. For safety reasons please do not bring children to school unless you have been informed to do so.

God Bless,

*Z Mabbott*

Mrs Zoe Mabbott  
Head teacher



Mr Mark Evans  
Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Board