



St Michael & St John's RC Primary School
Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG
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'Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another to be the best we can be.'

Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Further update regarding opening to more pupils.

Dear parents

Firstly, thank you again for your co-operation, understanding and patience whilst we looked at and organised the safest way to increase the numbers of children attending our school from next week.

Thank you for sending your key worker information and shift patterns in so quickly. This has really helped with logistics and planning.

On the 21st May I wrote to you to explain that:

"We will not be in a position to safely welcome back all children in EYFS, Y1 and Y6 immediately from 1st 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."

We are both sorry and disappointed that currently, we cannot offer wider opening to all children in EYFS, Y1 and Y6. This is due to the number of children we can socially distance in each room and the number of key worker requests we have had. As it stands, unless the guidance changes, we are unable to welcome back any full year groups.

All children, whether at home or at school will be provided with the same learning opportunities. Teachers in school may need to work with mixed age bubbles and so will act as a facilitator rather than 'teaching' as we know it.

Our teachers are also trying different, fun ways to 'say hello', to 'touch base' and to bring a smile to the children's faces e.g. through Zoom meetings. **Please note for e safety reasons we request a parent is present at any Zoom organised by staff.**



Also, look out for our SSMJ staff team video - coming soon!

We do not know what the next 7 weeks will bring but we will focus on our children's well-being to ensure all children are coping and to help them with their feelings whether they are still learning at home or in a school which is very different to the one they left in March.

We will also help the children with their transition to September and continue the ongoing contact from teachers and phone calls from Mrs Mabbott.

I have missed the whole SSMJ family being in school and my thoughts have constantly been with you and your families. I would like nothing better than to have everyone back here as soon as possible but I can only allow this once we know it is safe to do so and through following government guidelines. I would only want my children to go somewhere that was safe, where I knew they were being looked after as well as they could be.

All I want to be, as I hope we all have been throughout this situation, is open and transparent. Our current situation of not being able to welcome all our children back goes against everything we usually stand for and believe in, but I know you will understand this is what we must do to keep everyone safe. I want to assure you that I am here to talk things through with you at any point either by email or phone at any point.

For now, this provision is only for the children who have been sent a letter. If there are siblings at home in other year groups, or you have not received a letter, then for now, regrettably, these children will need to remain at home until we receive any further advice on how we can safely further extend the opening of our school.

God bless and stay safe,

Mrs Zoe Mabbott

Headteacher