



Information Regarding the Wider Opening of the Academy

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the lockdown measures are gradually being relaxed, the return of the children to St Peter and St Paul is now our priority and this letter will hopefully layout our intentions on how to achieve this, what teaching and learning will look like and the additional measures we will take.

The senior leadership team and Governors of St Peter and St Paul have spent significant time since the government announcement regarding the wider opening of schools and academies planning and refining the details of actions we need to take on how best this can be achieved.

After careful consideration, the decision has been made to open the Academy, as part of a phased return of all pupils, to **Year 6** pupils in the first instance.

With so much still to do and prepare prior to opening to our Year 6 pupils the Governing Body have decided to remain closed, except for the vulnerable and key worker children who have been attending throughout the lockdown period, until the **8th June**. This will enable us to organise the classrooms, halls and outside spaces, obtain resources and enable training and support for staff to take place.

Our cautious and phased wider opening plans have been developed, using our best endeavours, to create an environment that is safe for our whole Academy community. The considerable guidance published over recent weeks and days by the government is freely available on the Department of Education website should you wish to refer to it.

Set out over the next few pages is how the Academy will look and operate upon opening for an increased number of pupils. The 'new normal' is currently unknown and all of us are uncertain as to how many aspects of our lives will look going forward. Hopefully, the shared details of our plan will give you an insight into how your child's education will be provided until the end of this summer term and confidence that your child will have access to everything they require to learn well, whether they attend the Academy or remain at home using our home learning materials.

These have been interesting and, at times testing, days and weeks for us all and we have had to face challenges which we thought could only ever be written about in fiction books. The impact of COVID-19 will be long lasting and there will be many new challenges ahead, however we have also enjoyed many days of beautiful clear blue skies, heard the birds sing more clearly and witnessed peaceful roads. We must look to the future with confidence and as part of that the children's education must continue albeit in a different format.

The headlines of our plan are as follows:

- Children will return in groups of 10-15 and remain in this 'bubble' for the duration of the Academy day.
- Children will be taught by a teacher, either their own or another member of the Academy teaching team.
- Year 6 will return first, followed by Year 1 when the model of return is settled, and then provisionally, Early Years.
- Seedlings Nursery will initially not open.
- The Academy will be closed to all year groups each Friday from 1pm (except the vulnerable and key worker children who have been with us throughout lockdown).
- The plans in place and are provisional. They will be subject to change based upon on-going evaluation and dependent on updates from the government.
- Stars, morning and evening, will not be operating.

We will do everything we can to make life at our Academy as nice an experience as possible for those pupils who do return; this is our moral purpose. However, being honest and realistic, teaching and learning will be very different compared to how the children will remember it. Should you choose to send your child back to the Academy, please speak to them about this so that they know that there will be new rules and expectations about things like where they sit, who they see, who may teach them and who may or may not be part of their 'bubble'. Children need to understand that adults will keep their distance and that resources, toys and equipment will be limited and in some cases, removed. Children need to be prepared for the fact that they may not be with their friends, and they will not necessarily have their teacher.

Year 6 Parents Only

We are grateful to those of you who have already responded to our survey and we are aware that many of you have been undecided and were awaiting additional information. Having read through the following information, we would very appreciate it if you could let us know of any decisions. You can contact us to confirm your intention by emailing admin@stpstp.co.uk

We do not need parents from other year groups to indicate intentions at this time.

The decision you make regarding returning your child, when their year groups is identified, to the Academy is fully respected and the Governing Body and government are very clear that there is **no penalty** for not returning your child. You will **not** be fined for non attendance.

We look forward to seeing you all soon and in the meantime, hope that you are all well. Thank you once again for your support and the kindness you have shown in the many emails, letters and photographs we have received.

Please keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Joanna Seymour, Principal