

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Ref Coronavirus 17

Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year Six Pupils

Re: Wider Opening of Sacred Heart for Year Six Pupils

The final weeks of primary school education should be an exciting and memorable time for all children and their parents. This year, we have been faced with a situation which is unprecedented, brings great challenges and has sadly meant that life has been more difficult and different than any of us could have imagined. So, I hope that this letter reaches you all in good health, and that you are in good spirits and are coping with the demands of the situation.

It has been very difficult for everyone here at Sacred Heart; our Year Six teachers and support staff and all who have known and loved your children over their time at Sacred Heart are missing your children. We have had many discussions in recent weeks about how we might be able to bring your children back into school, safely and within the guidelines and restrictions placed upon us. Our risk assessment is very thorough and all decisions that we make, place the safety of your child as our highest consideration.

We have decided that we are able to open Sacred Heart to Year Six pupils for four days at the very end of term. We believe that it is important for your child to have the opportunity to say good bye to their friends, their teachers, their school and to their very precious primary years. We have carefully balanced this need against our health and safety risk assessment.

Open to Year Six pupils

Monday 13th July, Tuesday 14th July, Wednesday 15th July and Thursday 16th July 2020

Of course, we understand that it is your decision whether, or not to send your child back at this stage. We respect the decision that you make in the best interests of your child. To help you make this decision, these are the steps that we will take to ensure their safety.

- Pupils will be placed in small bubbles of no more than fifteen.
- Desks and equipment will be socially spaced, with one chair to each table.
- Each pupil will have their own equipment, provided by school as needed. Pupils should not bring in any equipment from home
- Pupils will remain in their 'bubble' and will not be allowed to socially mix with other pupils inside the building.
- We will endeavour to have 'wave' time, in which pupils will remain in their bubbles in a designated outdoor space. They will be able to see their peer group in other bubbles and share some distanced 'wave' time.

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- Your child may not be in a bubble with their class teacher, but we will ensure that all children will have some face to face contact with their own Year Six teacher over the four days.
- Pupils should arrive at school between 9.15 and 9.30am. The site is very busy before this time and so we have introduced a one way walking system around the site. Please do not arrive before 9.15am without prior arrangements.
- Year Six pupils will be leaving school each day at 2.30pm. Parents who wish to collect their child should enter the site at 2.30 and again there is a one way walking system for you and your child.
- If you wish to give your permission for your child to walk home alone, we must have this in writing. Please e-mail your child's class teacher to give your permission. We understand that you may have already given permission for this, before lockdown, however, as your personal circumstances may be different now, we ask that you let us know your wishes again. We will not let your child leave the school premises without your written permission.
- Lunches – the school kitchen is open for children to order a packed lunch at the start of the school day. Please make any payments on-line, as we prefer not to handle cash at the school office. You may opt to bring in a packed lunch. All lunches will be eaten in the same bubble area.
- Pupils can come in 'own clothes.' Please ensure that clothes are appropriate for school wear and that you don't mind them getting messy e.g. during an art activity. Trainers or school shoes are fine for now. Earrings are not allowed.
- Mobile phones are allowed, however, they should be switched off and locked away during the school day.

In the meantime, our teachers are setting up some face to face sessions through Microsoft Teams. Please look out for the up-dates we will be sending to you through Parent Mail. Ask your child to keep checking their e-mails too, so that they don't miss the opportunity to take part in a virtual session with their teacher.

For those children who will be transferring to St. John Fisher, we are trying to set up a virtual session through Microsoft Teams for the children to meet Mrs Stanton, Head of Year Seven. More details about this will follow soon.

Next Steps

Decide if your child will be attending for these last few days and inform your child's class teacher via their e-mail address. Year6@sacredheart.wigan.sch.uk The information we need is as follows:

Tell us - My child **will be / not be** attending on Monday 13th – Thursday 16th July 2020.

Tell us – if you wish your child to walk home alone.

Tell us – if your child needs any medication or an inhaler when they attend (all inhalers were sent home when we closed).

We need definite numbers by Wednesday 1st July so that we can plan for our bubbles and allocate staff.

Finally, I understand that this may be a very difficult decision for you to make at this stage. However, I would not open our school to Year Six at all if we couldn't implement the government guidelines for your children.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Kind regards,

Mrs C. Mason
Headteacher

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