

LEIGH XII APOSTLES' RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEL PAN LANE, LEIGH, WN7 5JS

HEADTEACHER: MRS S. M. NEWTON BA Hons QTS
Tel. 01942 674312
Web. www.twelveapostlesleigh.co.uk



10th June 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

The Secretary of State for Education, Mr Williamson, made the announcement on Monday 9th June that there was going to be a "cautious, phased return" to school - that would no longer mean **all** primary school year groups would be going back to school before the end of term.

Mr Williamson said that if schools had the capacity, they could take more pupils, if they chose. However, I am sure you will all appreciate that the class size restrictions means that this is not a credible option for most schools. Our own risk assessments have identified that each classroom can hold 10-12 children maximum in order to adhere to the 2m social distancing rule. These restrictions are, clearly, very important to avoid crowded classrooms and create as safe an environment as possible. For most schools though, the maths is very simple; based on halved class sizes we would need double the number of classrooms and teachers to reopen school, and that is before we take into account staff who are shielding and at risk. We also have to factor in the government's priority group of key workers and vulnerable children. If the government deemed it safe to ease these restrictions, then we could accommodate more children. However, such decisions are rightly made by public health officials and government ministers.

The Local Authority and Government agree that following the best scientific advice an implementation of a cautious, phased return of pupils to school is the most sensible course of action to take. With this in mind, we have taken the decision to continue with our plans to welcome our Reception children back to school on 15th June. Under the direction of Mrs Parry, the staff have been working hard to plan and prepare for their return, and we all look forward to welcoming them back to school. Mrs Yates and Mrs Parry will be leading the Reception 'bubbles', and information has been sent previously to those parents who have confirmed that their child will be returning, including staggered start and finish times and resources to help parents prepare their children for new routines and procedures.

We completely understand that every family's circumstances are unique, and you must make the decision that is best for your personal situation. Some children are continuing with our distance learning provision.



Through learning and loving we will follow Jesus.

We are endeavouring to provide places for critical key worker children but the numbers are steadily increasing. Therefore, together with the regional situation concerning the R rate, we will continue to monitor the impact and then make a decision about phasing our year 1 and year 6 children back to school before the end of term.

The prospect of a longer period without formal schooling must be frustrating and worrying for parents. We do recognise this and empathise with those most affected.

On behalf of all the staff, I would especially like to say to **all** of our children that we are all missing you and look forward to a time when we can be together again as a whole school community.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless and stay safe.

Mrs Newton
Headteacher