



LEIGH XII APOSTLES' RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEL PAN LANE, LEIGH, WN7 5JS
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SCHOOL WEB SITE: www.twelveapostles.wigan.sch.uk/
HEADTEACHER: MRS S. M. NEWTON BA Hons QTS

18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you are all bearing up during these crazy times and that you and your families are well. Can I thank you once again for all the support you have given to your child/children with their home learning. The feedback from the teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. Also thank you for following the Government's advice to keep your child/children at home where possible.

Your patience following my email to all parents last Monday has been appreciated. We have spent the last week consulting with the LA and Local Headteacher to digest all the guidance from the Government to plan and prepare for the potential reopening of schools. We have emailed a letter from Wigan LA to Parents and this can also be found on the school web site.

The DFE Guidance is clear that school should only look to reopen for Reception, year 1 and year 6 to prepare for a possible return in June. This is conditional and may change depending on the national or local picture and dependent on the infection rate (R rate). We are now in the process of making plans to open on **Monday 8th June for the Reception children and children of key workers and vulnerable children**. Certain criteria have to be fulfilled and risk assessments completed.

As a priority, we need to provide a child care facility for the children of key workers and our most vulnerable children and we need to cap this at 40 children. There will be 10 in each of the junior classes following the social distancing guidelines. These children will remain in the same group of 10 throughout the week and will not be able to mix with one another. At this moment, we need to establish any additional key workers that will now require a child care place in school and ask if you could apply using the email below and provide the following details by **Thursday 21st May 2020**. Please be mindful this service is only available if alternative child care arrangements can't be made. If your child already accesses a place you do not need to reapply. However, if your child has not used this service you need to apply.

keyworkers@twelveapostlesleigh.co.uk

Name and year group of child

Your specific job role and title

Day/s required for child care

The Government and LA have advised that we start with the youngest children on this phased return to school. However, it should be noted that each school is unique and has to take into account staff capacity, classroom space, number of key worker and vulnerable children requiring a place. This very much dictates what each school can safely offer. The hierarchy of priority is as follows:

- Key work and vulnerable children
- Reception
- Year 1

- Year 6

Therefore, we are planning on Reception returning first and Mrs Parry will contact all parents by phone next week.

There will be a number of changes that your child will need to adjust to when they return and I urge you to talk to them about how the school environment and school routines will be very different.

Whilst steps will be taken to ensure children abide to social distancing rules, I am sure you will appreciate that this is impossible for our younger Reception children. Therefore, we have taken the following reasonable measures to provide the safest environment possible. The Reception children will be in classes of 10 and will remain in that class with the same group of children and adults for the duration of the school day. As there will be in 3 classes, Mrs Parry may not be their class teacher. The guidance states that children and adults need to restrict who they come into contact with. They will be cared for by 2 to 3 adults covering breaks and lunchtimes, and will not be able to mix with any other groups to avoid cross contamination.

Children of key workers and vulnerable children will also be in groups of 10 in the junior classrooms and will remain in these groups with 2 adults.

- Children will have separate playtimes and lunchtimes in separate areas.
- Children will eat lunch in their classrooms each day.
- Staggered start and finishing times will be implemented and only **one parent** should come to school with their child and abide by the 2m social distance rule. It is vitally important that parents arrive exactly on time and leave immediately at their allocated time.
- The Government has published stringent protective safety measures which means that when your child returns to school, it will NOT be to an environment or Education as provided prior to lock down. As you can appreciate, this saddens us all but the safety of our whole school community is paramount. The Early Years Curriculum will be very different.

Children in the clinically vulnerable group should seek medical advice regarding if it is appropriate to return to school. Children living in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable or shielding should not return to school due the risk of infection. Children will not be penalised for non attendance. School work will be provided for these children by the class teacher.

Parents must be advised if you have a child that attends school in a priority year group, siblings in other year groups will not be able to attend.

The school week will be Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur all day and **Fri am only** for **all** children. School will be closed Friday afternoon so we can have a deep clean in preparation for the following week. Again, finish times will be staggered starting at 12 noon.

There will be no breakfast or after school clubs as this would be in breach of the Government guidelines on children and staff mixing.

Children are not to bring bags or any other equipment to school and should wear clean clothes ,school uniform where possible each day.

Children will be required to wash their hands as they enter the school and at regular intervals during the day.

There will be limited toys and resources in the classrooms to avoid cross contamination and regular cleaning will take place.

The Government have instructed staff to wear appropriate PPE if a child is injured and needs attention.

If a child becomes ill with symptoms of COVID 19, they will be immediately isolated in school and parents contacted to collect them immediately. The whole household would then be expected to isolate for 14 days and the child must be tested. If tested positive, the whole school group and staff would also have to isolate for 14 days.

A separate letter will be sent out detailing the continuation of home learning for those children not in school.

The Free School Meal vouchers will continue for those children entitled that are not in school.

As children become accustomed to the new routines, environments and ways of working and we see the R rate decrease, we will look at increasing the year groups that we can accommodate in school.

Once we have a list of the children attending, we will send out a letter with further details including which group your child will be in and your child's start and finishing time each day.

This is an extremely hard letter to write as the staff in school would like nothing better than all our children to return. However, we need to ensure guidelines are followed and the safety of our whole school community is a priority. I know that this is a worrying time for everybody, but it is important that we all support each other in staying safe through this time.

God Bless and Kind Regards

Mrs S. Newton

Headteacher