

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

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22nd June 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

I wanted to write to give you an update as I am sure you will have so many questions following the latest Government announcements. However I know that you will appreciate that there are still so many uncertainties in this ever changing situation. Last week the Government announced its ambition for schools to be reopened for all children in September. Let's hope and pray that this will become a reality and that the risk of contracting COVID 19 is eliminated over the Summer and the requirement for social distancing and other preventative measures will no longer be required. Of course this relies on the behaviours of everyone across society which will help to keep the virus at bay so that this can become a reality. It is frustrating to see people crammed into shopping queues and various mass gatherings in public places, whilst we are desperate for children to return to a school. The Government and Local Authority will deem it safe to increase class size limits as soon as it is safe to do so and I will keep you informed as I receive further information.

Usually at this time of year I would let you know which class teacher your child will have in the new academic year however, there are still uncertainties around class arrangements for September. We want to ensure a smooth transition and are therefore planning for a number of scenarios including whether your child returns to their current class teacher or starts with a new teacher, whether the start back at school will be phased or staggered. We are conscious that children will return with a wide range of knowledge and skills and there may be some children that need to catch up in some areas. There may be some children that need support for their emotional and mental well-being and to develop their social skills and friendship bonds after a prolonged absence from school. All of these things will be given priority when planning our curriculum when your child returns.

The Government has also announced that it is providing additional funding to schools to help deliver catch-up programmes. As yet, we do not have any details of this but we welcome the initiative. Once we have received details, we will be able to integrate plans into our wider recovery curriculum.

I would like to say that it has been a delight to welcome our Reception and Year 1 children back into school on a full time basis. The sound of laughter and chatter has lifted all our spirits.



Through learning and loving we will follow Jesus.

As my previous correspondence detailed, we are currently also providing places for critical key worker and vulnerable children and the numbers are steadily increasing. Under the current Government guidance our maximum capacity is between 10 and 12 children in each class dependent on class size and we are now near to maximum capacity.

Year 6

Once again I want to reassure our Year 6 children that Mr Rowlands and I have plans in place to celebrate and mark your time at XII Apostles and we will be writing to you shortly to confirm these. We do not want this year to pass without a celebration of your achievements or to have the chance to say our goodbyes. We are continually looking at the safest options for hosting a leaver's event.

Home Learning

At this time of year it is quite normal for children to be feeling tired, and it is often harder to hold their attention and draw the best quality work out of them. I am sure that a number of you are finding the home learning a slog at the moment. I would just encourage you to be kind to yourself if it is proving more and more difficult to motivate your child. You may need to manage your expectations of your children, and of yourself. Can I once again say how impressed the teachers have been with the engagement to date.

We will be sending out a questionnaire for parents to complete electronically about home learning and communication. Can I urge you to complete this as it will help us to support you during this difficult time.

I will continue to update you as soon as I have any further information.

God Bless and Stay Safe.

Mrs Newton
Headteacher