



St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the Government has proposed the phased return of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside Key Worker/Vulnerable children from the week commencing 1 June 2020 at the earliest. I would like to assure parents and carers that as Headteacher, I will make decisions in consultation with our Governing Body and the Local Authority. I am drawing on a range of information to make decisions subject to a risk assessment based on the specific circumstances of our school.

I want to reiterate that children and staff safety will remain the primary concern in any planning and that it may not be possible to welcome back all children in the way the Prime Minister described. I am being open and honest about the challenges we face in expanding the number of children attending our school. Again the safety of our children, staff and families is paramount and will be managed with extreme caution and care so that all necessary protective measures can be put in place. As a school we have specific challenges relating to our school and are considering what a safe return for some children might look like.

As advised, we have asked parents/carers about the potential demand for places and will ask you again should you change your minds over time when more guidance and information becomes available from the Government.

Whilst we plan for the proposed phased return and as a school have regard to many considerations, I do not have all of the answers and will only make decisions when all of the safety and well-being of children and staff has been prioritised. I am sure you will agree that all decisions need to be well informed by government guidance and LA advice.

I can say that any phased return, when it does happen, will not be school as we know it. The children will be separated into different classrooms as the guidance states no more than 15 children (perhaps considerably less given the size of some of our classrooms), break and lunchtimes will be staggered and protective measures will have to be adhered to by children, staff and parents. The full details of which I understandably cannot share with you just yet as we are still devising our risk assessments and will remain under review with new guidance as it is received.

This is an extremely challenging time for everyone and I would appreciate your support with the plans that myself and the Governing Body will put in place to keep our children, staff and families safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Louise Prestidge

