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22nd May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to give you an update as to the initial discussions that we have been having about re-opening St. Peter's, following the Prime Minister's proposal a week ago Sunday. To remind you, at St. Peter's this would mean re-opening for just Year 6 pupils at present. This will also mean that children of Key Workers (as defined by the government for this crisis) and vulnerable children would also move back to the St. Peter's site, from Palm Bay Primary where we have been sharing the care for these children.

The decision to open is still very much undecided, as the government state that all 'five key tests' must be met in order for schools to reopen no earlier than 1st June, and we just don't know yet if that will happen. We believe that we may get this decision **on Thursday 28th May 2020**, and this would then give us just one day in half term to prepare for an unknown number of children and staff starting at St. Peter's on the Monday – this is simply not possible.

Therefore, the school **will be closed** for a final clean and preparing of the new arrangements and **will be open to Year 6 and key worker / vulnerable children from Monday 8th June**. This gives us time to train all staff, set up classes according to the known pupils numbers and make final clean downs. But most importantly, it gives you time to consider whether you will be sending your Year 6 child / key worker / vulnerable child in with us.

If you are a key worker, Palm Bay Primary will be open throughout half term for your child. From 1st June to 5th June when they will be preparing for the possible return of their Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes, please make your own arrangements for childcare as both schools will be closed for cleaning and preparations. I know that this may cause a few families some disruption, but we have provided care for our keyworker families every working day since schools were closed down so I hope you will bear with us for this one week.

I want to make it very clear to you all: if we are told to reopen in June this is not me as Headteacher saying to you as parents that I believe it is safe for your children to return to St Peter's. It will be me saying to you that we have been told to reopen and that we will be doing it as safely and as sensibly as possible. It will absolutely be up to you as parents to weigh up the potential risks and the potential advantages and do what you feel is right for you and for your whole family.

As a school we will not put pressure on you as a family to return to school or to stay at home. We really do recognise that each and every one of our families are different and have different circumstances to take into account. What we will do is do our best to provide the same support to you and your children whether you decide to send them back or decide to keep them at home. We will continue to provide the same learning resources for all our Year 6 children, those in school will access these lessons in school, those at home will access them at home.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3v16



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Year 6 Children's Potential Return to St. Peter's on Monday 8th June

So how will it work?

As I said before, this will be a very different end to Year 6 than we'd like. The school will be very quiet and empty. We will not be in anything like our usual classes and can have none of our usual activities. Children have to be in small groups, with the same adults, and cannot mix with others or move around the school.

You will be asked to book in, so that we know definite numbers to prepare learning spaces and 'learning groups' (not the normal classes). A booking request will be sent you on Friday 29th May and you will have until Tuesday 2nd June to reply, so that we can group children into their bubbles according to our final numbers.

When considering whether you will choose to send your child in, we ask that you consider the following information, which we believe to be true at this time:

- This will be very far from a normal Year 6 school day.
- You will be required to book in on a weekly basis. If you do not, you will not be able to send your child in for that week, until groups are potentially added to the following week.
- Children will stay in their learning group, or bubble, of no more than 10 children and will not mix with any other bubble. The groups will be put together as we see best, please do not request to be with friends or with particular teachers, we will just not be able to take this into consideration.
- Classrooms will be set up to try and observe the 2m social distancing rule as best we can, but after some measuring, this would mean approximately 6 children per classroom at St. Peter's. So please bear in mind that a 2 metres distance will not always be possible in school, although it will be encouraged.
- There will be no assemblies or larger learning activities in the hall.
- Our Dance, Drama, Art, Music and PE teachers cannot work with more than one bubble.
- No face masks will be worn by staff or pupils, to ensure all children feel comfortable.
- All children will be required to hand sanitise on entry and leaving the classroom and regular handwashing will take place throughout the day.
- The Year 6 day will be shorter than the normal school day, so children do not become irritated or feel too confined. We anticipate a long morning, with regular breaks/learning outside when possible.
- The model day will be from 9:00 to 1:00, though different bubbles will have different start and end times.
- Pick-ups and drop-offs will be staggered to allow parents to social distance as much as possible. Parents will be required to bring and collect their children. We will not be releasing children to walk home with friends, to ensure social distancing remains.
- There will be signage, floor markings and visual reminders for all in schools as reminders to keep to social distancing.
- There will be no hot school meals available – it will be packed lunches for all, eaten in their learning groups.
- Attendance will not be assessed by Kent County Council at this time – all attendance for 2019/20 will be nul and void according to the Department for Education. Year 6 parents not wishing to send their child in will not be fined if they choose not to do so.
- Mobile phones will not be allowed in school at all, though their ipads can be brought in each day.

We will carry out a similar booking system towards the end of each week for the week ahead. This will allow parents to let us know if children who have stayed at home want to return to school or if children who have been in school want to stay at home and will allow us to plan the week accordingly.



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Key worker and Vulnerable Children at St. Peter's

Much of the information above will also apply to Key Worker children. In addition:

- The Key worker/vulnerable children will be in their own learning groups and will remain in these.
- They Key worker / vulnerable children's day will be 9am-3pm Monday to Friday as the main aim for this group is to provide childcare so critical work can be done.
- You must book in per week, by a survey which will be emailed to all parents.
- As this group will be a mixed age group and the children will not be with their peers we will ask our key worker Year 6 parents to choose whether they want their children to be part of the longer day keyworker bubble or the shorter day Year 6 bubble – but once the decision is made the groups have to be isolated so minds can't be changed!

There will be many more arrangements to finalise with regard to pick-up times and drop-offs, learning activities, FSM vouchers and packed lunches etc. We will decide upon these over the half term break and once we know more about the numbers we are planning for. However I hope the information above gives you enough to start to think about whether you would consider sending your Year 6, key worker or vulnerable child back to St. Peter's.

As I said, this could all be in vain if the government is not satisfied that the five key tests have been met. But we need to plan as much as possible, so please start to consider and we will ask you to make decisions when we email you next Friday 29th May.

Have a lovely and relaxing half term.

Stay safe,

Mr Hunter-Whitehouse

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