



St Alban's CE Primary School

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National Support School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership



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Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we wrote asking you to complete an online survey so we could begin to plan for a possible opening to some year groups and critical workers from June 1st, as directed by the government. Any opening would be subject to their guidance at the time, but we are busy working out a plan based on their recommendations to ensure everyone is kept as safe as possible. Please do respond as soon as possible to the survey we sent out, if you haven't already. Early next week, we will be sending you more details about the provision, how we will stagger entry, put safety measures in place and what you can expect school to look like: it will definitely be a 'new normal'! We will then send a further survey to gather views again once we have this information for you.

The guidance encourages flexibility so that settings can plan a safe return Based on our risk assessment and government guidance, we are looking to create 'bubbles', or small groups, of around 10 – 15 children per class depending on the size of the room. We have 8 classrooms, so would only safely be able to open under current government guidance to between 80 and 120 pupils.

The government is clear that we have to prioritise vulnerable children (for example those with an Education and Health Care Plan) and those of critical workers. When schools initially closed, many of you registered as critical workers with us and we have your details and email you regularly. We registered at that stage 58 pupils. We now need to ascertain if there are additional critical workers who will be accessing this provision for the first time from 1st June, possibly because your circumstances have changed, for example, and you are returning to work, or your partner is so you now have no childcare. When we have an updated picture of the number of critical workers who will use this provision, we will be able to then plan a phased transition back to school for other pupils, up to the safe number we are allowed in the building with our small bubbles. We therefore need critical workers who would like to register and have not done so already to get in touch with us as a matter of urgency please through email.

Once we have a clear picture of critical workers, our plan is to introduce year groups in phases as per government guidance, starting with Y1 in week one (on the 1st June) and then, as long as we have 'bubble' capacity for more pupils (dependent on the number of critical worker children attending), we will move to Reception in week 2, nursery in week 3 and Y6 in week 4. We need to stress that this plan is subject to numbers attending, and we will be unable to extend to these year groups if our maximum number has been exceeded. Once we have a more accurate picture of numbers attending, we should be in a position to confirm this with you all by the end of next week. By staggering entry in this way, we will be able to take those small baby steps which will allow us to evaluate the model each week and make sure the provision is as safe as it can possibly be. We would love to be in a position, subject to government approval, of offering some days too to other year groups in the final few weeks of

term, as we desperately want to see them all, but of course this would be subject to guidance at the time.

Our plan is to provide part time provision in the morning, focusing on key maths and English skills and allowing children to come home at lunchtime, as lunchtime is a particularly difficult time in the day to manage safely. This will give us opportunity in the afternoon to disinfect resources and clean areas used well. It will also give staff time to continue with the home learning/ DoJo work, as it is vital that this continues for those pupils at home. Critical worker children will continue to access full time provision until 3pm.

Thank you for your patience as we seek to plan a possible return to school. Our children, families and staff safety are all paramount in the decisions we are making and it will take us a few days to put detailed plans together. We do hope that the information in this letter has given you some insight into the plans we are putting together, and we will let you know in more detail next week some of the additional safety precautions we are putting in place too.

We do hope you are all keeping safe and well at this difficult time.

Alison Adair
Executive Headteacher

Amy Gurner
Head of School

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Adair

Executive Headteacher

Mrs Gurner

Head of School