



St Alban's CE Primary School

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National Support School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are sure you have seen or heard by now that the government is hoping for some year groups to return to school in June if it is safe at that time to do so. The year groups that we are being asked to plan for are our nursery children, Reception children, year one and year six children. This is in addition to the children of critical workers who have had access to the provision since lockdown.

The government has set out what schools need to consider in relation to social distancing, which include among other things having less pupils in school (groups of no more than 15 in a class), staggered lunches and breaks, plus having staggered times for different groups to arrive and leave school. It includes too some advice about how we protect the most clinically vulnerable, and which groups of children and staff need to stay at home. Behind the scenes, we are busy working out how many staff will still be able to attend the setting (some are in this clinically vulnerable group), how many classrooms we need to manage groups of 15 and how many staff we need to teach the pupils. Some of you may be worrying too if your child or someone at home is clinically vulnerable – please feel that you can contact us to discuss this.

I think we need to be very clear that we are unable to achieve social distancing in a school. We can always make things safer, we could perhaps reduce slightly the risk, but as soon as you open the school the risk will be there. We will be following the guidance closely and will let you know nearer the time how you can help us keep everyone safe once school reopens to year groups.

It is also worth noting that, once year groups return, it will not be 'normal' school. The guidance states that children will need to be grouped in smaller sets of no more than 15 and will not mix with other pupils or staff from outside these groups. This means that it is not necessarily the case that your children will return to their usual teacher or see all their friends. It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that our Y6 pupils will not have the usual Y6 celebrations at the end of the year, including our prom, but we will try our best to celebrate virtually.

To help us plan a possible reopening, we need to capture your present thinking and views to see how many of you are planning on sending your child back to school this summer if school reopens for your child. To this end, we would like all of you to complete a survey via the following link as a matter of urgency so that we can begin to prepare:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VLTL55D>

It is crucial for us that you all complete this please **as soon as possible** so we can find out if it is safe to reopen with the numbers considering returning, how we group children and organise staffing. The government recognises that some of you prefer to keep your children at home if you can this summer, and therefore has confirmed that absence rates will not be tracked and fixed notice penalties not issued for non-attendance. If we find our numbers are too high to manage the groups of 15 safely, we will prioritise nursery, Reception and year one, rather than year six, as the government guidance suggests. Online learning will continue for those at home.

We will be in touch soon once we have analysed your responses and have been able to draw up our plans to open school safely.

We do hope you are all keeping well at this time and send you all our love!

With kindest regards,

Alison Adair
Executive Headteacher

Amy Gurner
Head of School

