



St Alban's CE Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Alison Adair
Head of school: Mrs Amy Gurner

Morthen Road, Rotherham, S66 1EU. Tel: 01709 542878.

Email: stalbans@sap.dsat.education

Website: wsap.academy

"Educating for life in all its fullness."



National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

17th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We recently wrote to you to let you know our initial thoughts in relation to the government guidance about the possible reopening of schools from June 1st.

Thank you for your patience as we have tried to work through the DfE guidance, which has been updated and changed a few times since we wrote to you! As mentioned in our last letter, the government says that, when reconsidering opening schools, we need to prioritise the following groups of children **in this order**:

- Vulnerable pupils (for example, those with a social worker, adopted from care, or those with an Education and Health Care Plan)
- Children of critical workers. There is a definitive list of critical workers which we have shared with you in previous letters.
- Children in nursery, Reception, Year 1
- Children in Year 6.

The guidance recommends no more than 15 pupils per class but asks schools to consider their classroom space as part of their risk assessment. To allow for social distancing wherever possible, and in consideration of the size of our classrooms and small corridors, we have assessed that we can open to classes of up to 10 pupils. These 10 pupils stay in a 'bubble', or small class, and don't mix with other children.

We have 8 classrooms in school, so have capacity to open safely for 80 pupils (8 classes x 10 pupils = 80).

Since we wrote to you, we have been inundated with requests from critical workers seeking to access provision from after the Spring Bank holiday. Some had registered at the start of the lockdown but didn't need provision over recent weeks because their partner was at home or they were not working, but their situation is now changing as the lockdown eases. Some are registering for the first time. We have just under 80 children registered under the category of either vulnerable or a critical worker at St Albans, which is reflective we believe of our demographic.

This means that we are unable to open safely to other classes from June 1st, including FS1, FS2, Y1 and Y6. The debate about whether or not schools should be open is irrelevant now to St Alban's, as we remain open for the children of vulnerable children and critical workers **only** because of the reasons explained above.

We appreciate that many of you will be disappointed by the news in this letter, and we hope you understand that we have to follow guidance closely in order to ensure everyone is kept safe. Should government guidance change, we will revise our offer and let you know straight away. Certainly, we miss all of the children so much, and at the very least would want to have them all in school even just for a day with their teacher before the year ends if we can.

Our teachers will be continuing to manage online learning and Class DoJo, and we have organised staffing in such a way that they have time in the afternoon to manage that for all of you who have children learning from home.

Critical workers will receive a letter this week with more details about the provision from 1st June.

Thank you to all of you and please take care,

Alison Adair
Executive Headteacher

Amy Gurner
Head of School

