



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School and Nursery**  
Head Teacher: Mr A Crehan



Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are aware, Boris Johnson announced that, "we may be in a position to begin to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**" from **1st June at the earliest**. Further guidance and direction from the Department for Education (DfE) has been coming throughout the week and that phased return now includes **Nursery** children too.

We have really missed the children during this 'lockdown' period, and we genuinely want to be back at school and to see all of our families again. We are working hard to put plans in place to ensure that any return for children is done as safely as possible. It is important to remember that any return to school will not be normal, no matter how hard we try. I completely agree that as a nation, we need to move forward. I know that our children need to be back in school. We are advised by the government and their scientific advisors, and I wanted to share some of the measures we will need to put in place for this phased return, should it happen.

If we return, we will do our very best to keep your child safe from Covid-19. We will follow all the government advice and adapt our school facilities to the best of our ability. However, we cannot control what children are exposed to, outside of school, and it is nearly impossible to get children, particularly our youngest, to social distance within a school setting.

Full advice for parents from the government can be found [here](#). Essentially, the government has asked us to plan 'bubbles' for your children to work in with a maximum of 15 children and a member of staff. This could mean that some of the children may not be in their normal classroom, with their normal teacher. Strict cleaning measures will need to be in place which means the majority of the play and practical equipment will need to be put away. The school timetable will be staggered upon entry, break time, lunch time and dismissal, to try and stop bubbles coming into contact with other bubbles. The school site will remain closed to parents and drop offs and collections will only be allowed to be done by one adult. We envisage a system in place to queue and pick up your child, much like the supermarkets.

Ultimately, decisions are yours as parents. Schools will not be enforcing attendance nor will fines be issued. This situation may change if the rate of infection increases. We are told that schools will be officially notified on 28th May if we will be opening or not. I will be in touch with more details nearer the time. It would help to know what your thoughts are at the moment. Parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are asked to complete this very [short survey](#) by **Monday 18th May**.

A phased opening will need the cooperation of our whole school community and I thank you for the support you have shown already, the kind messages you have sent, and for keeping us in your prayers.

God bless.

**A Crehan**  
Headteacher



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