

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



Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB

Thursday 25th June 2020

School Update - June

Dear Parents

It has been lovely to welcome back even more children into school again over the last few weeks from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, whilst continuing our provision for children of keyworkers and those children considered vulnerable.

The systems we have in school for drop-off and collection are working really well, and I wanted to thank all the parents for their support and patience with this. We currently have 10 'bubbles' of up to 15 children, and most bubbles have 2 members of staff in them too. This does mean that we are now using all of our classrooms and staff for the children already in school. We sadly cannot welcome back any other children from the other year groups until September.

September

Many of you have asked about the plans for schools in September. The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, announced that schools will be open in September to all pupils, from all year groups. We received that update, as we have with all the updates, at the same time as the general public. We are still waiting for the official guidance to be released so that we can plan for this. When I have more information I will let you know.

There are a few changes to the staffing next year. Firstly, I would like to thank Mrs Jones for her hard work as Acting Deputy Headteacher. She will now resume her role as Year 5 class teacher. We will be advertising for a new Deputy Headteacher at the beginning of term. Mrs Nolan and Mrs Cartwright will be returning from their maternity leave, and will be working together in Year 1. Mrs Powis will be returning to her role as Special Educational Needs Leader, along with providing cover for teachers' planning, preparation and assessment time.

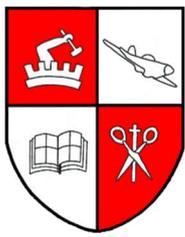
I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude and give my best wishes to two members of staff who have retired this year. Mr Nicholls, our Building Services Manager, who has worked tirelessly for 15 years to ensure the children and staff have a beautiful school to come to each day; and Ms Mooney who has been part of the St Gerard's family for over 25 years as a cleaner. I am sure you will join me in wishing them a happy and healthy retirement.

We welcome Mrs Johnson as our new Building Services Manager, and Mrs Flynn as our new cleaner. We wish them success in their new roles.

I am sure that your child will be keen to know about their new classes for next year. The teachers, teachings assistants and the classes they will be working in are shown on the table below. Please share this with your child. Sadly, we are unable to do a moving up day this year but over the next



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few weeks, teachers will be recording a video message for their new classes which will be on our school website.

Class	Teacher(s)	Teaching Assistant
Nursery	Mrs Guiney	Mrs Yelland
Reception	Mrs Gordon	Miss Blenkinsop
Year 1	Mrs Cartwright (Mon-Wed) Mrs Nolan (Thu-Fri)	Mrs Sprigg
Year 2	Miss Bluck	Miss Creamer
Year 3	Miss Crane	Mrs Smith
Year 4	Mrs Davies	Mrs Breen
Year 5	Mrs Jones	Mrs O'Loughlin
Year 6	Mrs Nye	Mrs Martin

Term Dates

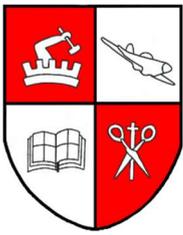
The end of term date has been brought forward to allow for the remaining two INSET days. We will be closing the school to **all pupils** on **Wednesday 15th July 2020**. On Thursday 16th and Friday 17th July, we will be planning for a September opening for all pupils in all year groups, which will include updating our risk assessments to adhere to the new guidance; adapting our curriculum so that we have a meaningful and effective 'catch-up' programme for the children; moving furniture out of storage and back into the classrooms; and hopefully returning our school environment back to as normal as we can. The school will be closed for the summer holidays as normal.

In the next academic year, we will be following the Birmingham City Council term dates as shown below:

Autumn Term 2020	Spring Term 2021	Summer Term 2021
Wednesday 2nd September	Monday 4th January	Monday 19th April
to	to	to
Friday 23rd October	Friday 12th February	Friday 28th May
HALF TERM	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 2nd November	Monday 22nd February	Monday 7th June
to	to	to
Friday 18th December	Thursday 1st April	Wednesday 21st July



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In this time of uneasiness we remember that, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (*Psalm 46:1*). We continue to pray for all of our children and families and look forward to the time when we are together again.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless.

A Crehan
Headteacher



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