



## St Godric's RC VA Primary School

Carrhouse Drive,  
Framwellgate Moor,  
Durham,  
DH1 5LZ

Tel No: 0191 3847452 Fax No: 0191 3864995

E-mail: [durhamstgodric@durhamlearning.net](mailto:durhamstgodric@durhamlearning.net)

School Website: [www.st-godricsrc.durham.sch.uk](http://www.st-godricsrc.durham.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs C Craig

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Dear Parents,

We are writing to parents of all children, to outline the strategies that we have put in place so that we are able to open school for pupils in Reception Class, Year 1, Year 6 and maintain provision for the children of key workers.

Before we outline arrangements, we would like you to read the quote made by Mr Richard Crane, Head of Education and Skills in Durham Local Education Authority. We hope that this provides you with some clarification in light of the latest information in the media regarding Durham Local Authority opening schools:

*Following the recent government announcement regarding a phased return to school for some pupils, we have been working closely with Durham County Council to establish what is right for our school. The council is supporting all schools in the county, to establish a pattern and timeframe that works for them. They have provided a risk assessment, which is designed to put the health and safety of children first and ensure each school mitigates, to the best of their ability, risks associated with a phased return. Working with the Council, we have decided that the following approach best suits the needs of children and families at St Godric's RC Primary School.*

You will note that we have attached a risk assessment which informs you about the whole school day. I would ask that you read this very carefully as it will help you understand the appropriate actions that we all need to make in order to maximise the safety of our children and staff. This plan is current as of the date of this letter but might be subject to change in the light of new government guidance.

Once you have read these documents, I ask parents in Reception, Y1 and Y6 to decide whether their child will return to school and respond once again with either 'yes' or 'no' as to whether their child will be returning. This will need to be completed by gam on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. This will enable us to set up the school in readiness for those children who are returning in Phase One.

In order to support our Reception children who are returning, we have made the decision that the children will come into school in groups of no more than 5 and only for one morning, from gam until 12.30pm. The children will go home for their lunch during this first week. This will allow the children to become familiar with their new setting and the new systems that are in place. We will communicate directly with parents about which day this will be. This will also enable us time to make any necessary adjustments that might be needed to ensure the safe return of a larger number of children in this year group.



The children returning in Year 1 and Year 6 will be placed into smaller groups and as far as possible we will take their emotional needs into account and also aim to place them in groups with their friends. In some cases, the children will be taught by a different teacher in a different classroom. We will work as a staff team to minimise pupil's anxiety in relation to this.

We ask that you do not give anything to your child to bring in from home. All children will be provided with their own water bottle which will be thoroughly cleaned by staff every night and filled for the start of each day and will be clearly named, both the lid and main bottle. We also ask that children are given a sun hat to leave in school on 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will avoid unnecessary time spent in cloakrooms and ease the arrival of children in school.

In order to give the school a weekly deep clean we will be closing the school every Friday at 1pm, this will be after the children have had their lunch.

Once you have decided to send your child to school, we would like you to ensure that the children come every day, unless they become unwell. There is no opt in/opt out system available. Parents who decide not to send their children into school are free to do so the school and governing body will fully respect this decision – there will be no repercussions. Staff will continue to provide home learning activities on the website for all children. These will replicate the work that the children are completing in school. Parents and children are very welcome to continue using the class email pages to send work in for their teachers.

We would politely request that parents communicate with school via telephone or email. We will not be able to speak to parents in person. However, brief messages can be left with the member of staff welcoming the children to school each morning and dismissing the children at the end of the day.

The picture at the base of this shows what a classroom will look like, a video of the whole school will be recorded and put on our website next week so that you can see how the whole school will look. We hope that this will give the children some time to understand that the school environment will look very different to the school environment that they are used to and help them prepare for their return to school on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

We fully appreciate that this is a very difficult time for us all, we have worked as a team to implement systems to maximise the health and safety of all our children and staff. We hope that the information that we have sent you answers any questions that you may have. However, if you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

*CM Craig M. Stephenson*

Mrs CM Craig      Mr Mark Stephenson  
Headteacher      Chair of Governors

