



I hope you and your families are keeping well and staying safe.

In the first instance, I would like to thank all of you who completed the survey we sent out earlier this week. We have now closed this survey.

As regards Seesaw, 94.6% of you finding it easy to use and 93.4% of you are finding the work manageable. This is great feedback, and reflects the hard work being put in by you and the teachers to make this work. For those of you still having trouble with it, please let us know how we can help.

Opinion was pretty evenly spread from 0-10 on the idea of moving all content to Seesaw from the website, so we will leave it as it is for now.

Since the survey went out, we have had more information from the government on how they see the expansion of school opening to facilitate more than key worker children, but there are still many questions. In our survey 47.7% of you said you were happy for your children to return to school, given that the protective measures are in place, but many of you voiced concerns about Health and Safety and other practical measures. These will all be considered by the governors in their meeting next week, but in the meantime, here are answers to some of the questions and concerns I am sure many of you have now we are eight weeks into lockdown

My child is in reception, year 1 or year 6. Will school be open for them on 1st June?

We do not know yet whether schools will be open. The government will make a decision on whether it is safe to start reopening nationally, and they think this might be possible from 1st June at the earliest. Like every headteacher I will also need to make a decision, with governors and staff, whether we are able to open our own schools in a way that is safe for our children, staff, and families. We all miss your children dearly but will not open until we feel it is safe enough. This might mean it's later than 1st June, and it might mean children back come more gradually. I know that many of you are keen for your children to return but safety must be the priority.

My child is in year 2-5. When will school reopen for them?

At the moment, we do not know. The government has stated an "ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible". However they have not shared any evidence that this will be safe or possible, and it would be very complex for any primary school to accommodate all children safely before September. Again, we would love to have all children back but not before it is safe to do so.

If school does reopen in June, how safe will it be?

We are working hard on plans for how we would keep children safe. This is likely to include: increased cleaning of the building; regular handwashing; learning in smaller groups; children in on a part-time basis only; reduced classroom and play equipment; different drop-off, pick-up, break and lunch times; PPE for staff to use in certain circumstances; restrictions on parents in school.



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We will do everything we can to minimise the risks, but I cannot promise that the risk will be zero. The government guidance to schools recognises that "unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff". However, we will do what we can to social distance as far as possible, as well as the measures listed above.

We ask that all children who return to school bring their own stationery with them, as we will not be able to share equipment across a class- pens, pencils, glue sticks etc. are essential!

I will be reviewing all the advice from the government, and from national and local health and education bodies, to ensure we make the right decisions and plans for our community. Ahead of any reopening of school to additional pupils, I will share our risk assessment and safety planning with parents.

How will key worker children be cared for?

Those children already with us will continue to be cared for in school, within their year groups if they have returned. We are aware that more of you may be requiring this help as more key workers return to school. We ask that you let us know *in advance* what care you need and when. As more and more staff are needed to teach the children returned to school, it is even more important that we have the right numbers. We would also ask that, in order to minimise the risk to others in the school, you only send your children in on the days you are working, which is why we need your timetables.

We will update you with more information as soon as we have it.

I wish you all a safe week ahead- don't forget that Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension and is a Holy day of Obligation. There are lots of local churches streaming Mass and sharing the Celebration would be a nice way of making the day different from the others.



A huge thank you to whoever was kind enough to nominate our staff for this lovely award! They have worked so hard and it is very much appreciated!



Dear Parents

I hope you and your families are all keeping well. These are certainly strange times we are living in and we are all having to adapt to living life differently and managing new and different ways of going about our everyday life.

As parents I am sure you can see how profoundly the dramatic change from having pupils at school every day to educating remotely must have affected the teaching and support staff at every school in the country. Sacred Heart is not alone in having to very suddenly find new ways to communicate lessons whilst also being aware that all our pupils are individuals and will react in their own personal way to these changes. I am very pleased and proud of the commitment our staff have shown in ensuring that the needs are met of both the children who need to stay at home and the children of key workers who need to attend school.

As with the advice we receive from the Government, the needs of our pupils are ever-changing and Mrs McMahon and the staff at Sacred Heart are constantly disseminating the advice/guidance to see how they can change, manage and improve systems to meet these changes.

Following Boris Johnson's announcement last Sunday the next stage will be the resumption of attending school for Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6. Whilst we may all have our own personal view on whether this is the right step or the right time, as a state school we must be prepared to open our doors to pupils if the Government tells us we must do so, in much the same way as we could not close the school until the Government instructed all schools to do so. However, the decision to re-open individual schools must be based on secure knowledge that it is safe to do so for pupils and staff, that there are enough staff able to attend school for the number of pupils and that routines can be adjusted appropriately to meet any social distancing requirements that are in place at that time. Mrs McMahon and the staff will spend much of the next few weeks making preparations and adjustments to accommodate whatever guidance they are given and we appreciate the parents' understanding of the difficulties they will have to overcome and that they may often be constricted by decisions made by others in authority.

I hope you will all join myself and the governing body in saying a big thank you to all the staff at Sacred Heart for the care and commitment they have shown in these unprecedented times. We are extremely lucky to have each and every one of them.

Wishing you all the best of health for you, your families and loved ones.



Parents Association

Bread n Butter CIC

With so many negative aspects of the Covid-19, it is so heartwarming to read about the positives and how the community are coming together to help those in need. We therefore couldn't be more proud when yet another Sacred Heart mum is making an incredible difference to the children, families and communities in the local area. Since lockdown began, Filomena Komodromou (mum to Daniel, 5A), alongwith a wonderful team of helpers, has been cooking meals in partnership with Onestonegrove in Edgware for those in need and at risk in and around Barnet. Filomena and her social enterprise Bread n Butter CIC have been liaising with local charities, community organisations, schools and councillors to make sure they reach the people that need these meals the most. Demand is increasing so they have set up a go fund me page to raise as much money as possible in order to get these meals out. Getting a meal to someone in need costs about £2, a £10 donation enables then to feed a family of four or five and £100 will help them feed around 50 people a hot nutritious meal. They are also looking for people who would like to help either to volunteer to help prepare the meals or deliver them.

For more info or to donate, please go to:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/tb4mx-donateameal?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&fbclid=IwAR0IytOFmpEsJrT3Q26LJr6IqhAwDTfk3a28-YFe8dgc_gWbYaFivj5IC4

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