



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

Principal: Lisa Belfield
Executive Principal: Jill Pilling

St James C.E Primary School
Hillside Avenue, Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 9QB

Tel: 01204 572587

Email: office@st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk

www.st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, schools are being asked to prepare for a possible return to school on the 1st of June for the following priority year groups: Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Leaders are considering a safe reopening for these children taking maximum available precautions to ensure the safety of our children, our staff and their families.

At this point, we want parents to decide what they think is right for their family. No families will be fined for not attending at this time.

The Department of Education have issued schools with guidance which leaders at St James will carefully consider to ensure a possible safe reopening of the school. We would like to share with you the main measures our school will be undertaking. We must also make you aware that we are also considering the use of a gradual phased return to school (not all year groups in at the start) and a potential part time model for pupils. Our other measures include:

- Staggered drop-off and collection times. (These will be shared at a later date).
- Small class sizes, no more than 15 children (This will likely be with a different teacher and classroom than normal).
- Where possible children will be spaced apart in classrooms and other learning environments but, due to lack of space, this will not necessarily adhere to the social distancing rule of 2 meters.
- Soft furnishings, and toys will be removed from classrooms to avoid contamination.
- Children will not have access to any shared resources and areas they would normally use, e.g. reading books, iPads, etc.
- Children should not bring any additional items from home. Only a coat and lunchbox will be permitted. (No book bags).
- Movement around the school will be limited and children will remain in their groups within the allocated space for the duration of the day, including lunchtimes.
- Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be shorter and staggered so that children remain in the same, small consistent groups they are allocated to.
- When dropping off and collecting your children only one parent should attend.
- Parents must not gather at entrance gates, or doors, or enter the site, there will be a one way system in operation around the school.



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If a child, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the rest of their class or group within their setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

The Government have advised that wearing a face covering or mask in school is not recommended and should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children). Staff will adhere to Government guidelines on cleanliness and hygiene by washing hands more often than usual, ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, cleaning frequently touched surfaces and minimising contact.

So that leaders can plan effectively for the proposed phased reopening of school from the 1st June, please can parents from Nursery (Nursery 2 only), Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 contact us on the office e-mail below, giving your child's name and informing us of your decision to send your child to school if and when we reopen to those priority groups. If you do not have an email address, please can you ring the school office Mon-Fri 8:30am-3:30pm to let us know your intentions. Please respond to this request by Wednesday 20th May. Thank you.

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As the Prime Minister stressed during his announcement on Sunday, these are proposed plans that are conditional and subject to change. Our main priority remains keeping our school community safe. During these unprecedented times, we will continue to support our pupils and their families and if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Principal