

St John's CE Primary School

Godly Lane
Rishworth
Sowerby Bridge
West Yorkshire
HX6 4QR
Tel: 01422 822596

An Academy Trust working with
the Diocese of Leeds: 08296540

18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

Now that some initial guidance has been published by the Government we would like to share with you our initial outline plan for the potential phased re-opening of primary schools planned from June 1st. I must stress that we are receiving daily updates from both the DfE (Department for Education) and the local authority and we are speaking with school staff. These updates may mean that we need to adapt our plans in relation to the information we are given.

We completely understand that there are anxieties for parents about children coming back to school. Every family will have unique circumstances. I ask you to consider the initial plan and then make an informed decision about whether or not you want your child to return to school. We have been informed by the DfE that no family will be penalised for not sending their child into school.

We will have a staggered return for the week commencing June 1st for YR, Y1 and Y6. This will allow us to manage one group at a time and adjust any arrangements accordingly in a managed and safe way. **We will cancel the planned training day for Monday 1st June and Y6 will be able to return to school on that day. Y1 will be able to return to school on Tuesday 2nd June, with YR starting on Wednesday 3rd June.**

We intend to re-introduce the "unofficial one way system" on Godly Lane, with parents driving from the Rishworth New Road end, simply stopping at the main school gate and letting their child out of the car before continuing along Godly Lane past church. This will avoid the need for any congregation of parents/children in the playground. A member of staff will be on the main gate to direct the children and another staff member will be at the main door. Any families who walk to school are free to use either of the normal gates, but again we ask that you say goodbye to your child at the gate (remembering to keep your distance from any other families) where a member of staff will direct them.

We will also have staggered drop-off and pick up times:

- **YR:** 8.45 drop off, 2.45 pick up
- **Y1:** 9.00 drop off, 3.00 pick up
- **Y6:** and critical worker/vulnerable children: 9.15 drop off, 3.15 pick up
- **School will close after lunch on Friday each week to enable a deep clean to take place and to give staff some time to plan lessons/update the website/phone families. Children should be collected as follows: YR: 1.05pm, Y1: 1.20pm, Y6: 1.30pm.**

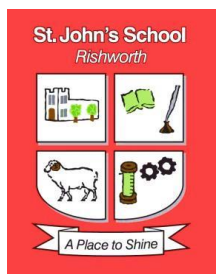


Head teacher:

Mrs J Wasyliw BA(Hons)

Web: www.stjohnsrishworth.org.uk

Email: admin@st-johns-rishworth.calderdale.sch.uk



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When you have dropped your child at school we ask that you leave the school perimeter. The school office will **not** be open so if you need to leave a message for a teacher or office staff please phone the school number once you have left the vicinity.

Government guidance suggests children should be taught in half class sizes of around 15 pupils. In order to keep the school community as safe as possible, we will teach the children in groups of between 10 and 15 depending upon numbers of children returning to school. There will be a further group for the critical workers' children and vulnerable children. This could result in us having 7 separate groups of children in school. We anticipate that there will be approximately 90 people in the building, including staff, if most of the eligible children return to school.

Each group will be taught in a different room and will not be allowed to mix with other groups of children during the school day – including at playtime and lunchtime. Obviously this will mean that some children will not be taught by their normal teacher or in their normal classroom. Whilst we will endeavour to maintain the 2m distancing rule, we cannot guarantee that it will be maintained between the children even in groups of 10 and when they are sitting at separate desks. Unfortunately we cannot make the groups any smaller as we don't have enough staff or rooms. Each group of pupils will remain together throughout the day in the same learning space and they will play out in these groups on a staggered break and lunchtime rota. There will be no communal activities such as assembly.

In order to achieve this plan, both the space in school and the staffing are at full stretch. **Should we have any staff absence due to illness or the need to self-isolate, we may have to reconsider our arrangements.** Obviously, if the government moves to the return of the whole school for the last 4 weeks of term then we would not be able to maintain these small groups and we may have to look at children attending school part-time depending upon the DfE's guidance at this time.

We will provide school lunches, but this will be a sandwich packed lunch so that we have flexibility in where this can be eaten and to increase staff cleaning capacity. As you can imagine, getting 7 sittings of children through the hall could take most of the day! As normal, YR and Y1 children will receive these as part of universal infant free school meals and Y6 can choose to pay for school lunches should parents want to do so or they can bring a packed lunch from home. For those Y6 families in receipt of the benefit led free school meals a lunch will be provided.

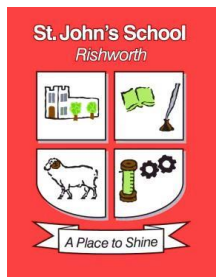
All children will need to wear school uniform including sturdy school shoes as they may be outside a fair amount. Children will be given a set of personal pencils and pens etc. for them to use so we are not sharing equipment. The children do not need to bring in PE kit.

The children will use the bathrooms separately and be kept at a safe distance from each other whilst doing so. They will wash their hands throughout the day. At the end of each day and throughout the day staff will clean the shared spaces and touchpoints such as door handles, toilets, bannisters, desks and chairs.



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If you do decide to send your child back to school it would be helpful if you could begin explaining to them that school will feel different (e.g. – they could be with a different teacher/in a different room, there will be no assemblies etc.) and remind them that they should not hug their friends/teachers or mix with a different group.

Aftercare – St John's out of school club will contact parents directly with their arrangements.

Childcare for children in Y2-Y5 will remain open for essential key workers and vulnerable children. We anticipate that numbers of these children will rise with many education staff no longer able to work from home, so we must stress that **places are only for those who are working as part of the frontline coronavirus response** – as previously, parents may be asked for evidence of their critical worker status. These parents will need to contact the admin@stjohnsrishworth.org.uk email address to book a place and we ask that this is done well in advance so that staffing can be arranged.

The home schooling resources for Y2-Y5 will continue to be posted online and teachers will continue making fortnightly contact with these families.

Some parents of YR, Y1 and Y6 children have already informed us that they wish to keep their child at home for the foreseeable future and have asked if the online resources and phone calls can continue. We do hope to be able to do this, but it will depend upon the numbers of children returning to school – if, for example, we only have half a year group returning to school then this will enable teachers to be released to complete the website resources and phone calls.

Although I have provided an outline plan here so that you can make an informed decision, you may still have more questions. Please email with any specific issues you may be facing on admin@stjohnsrishworth.org.uk and we will do our best to discuss your concerns with you.

In order to assist with our more detailed plans, we ask that parents of YR, Y1 and Y6 children email admin@stjohnsrishworth.org.uk as soon as possible (and by Wednesday 20th May) to inform us whether they intend to send their child back to school the week commencing June 1st.

Please remember the decision is yours as to whether you choose to send your child back to school or not. We will respect that decision either way as we understand that each family's situation is different. If your child or anyone in your household is showing any signs of illness please do not send your child into school.

Thank you for all the support you have shown in your engagement with St. John's during the school closures. We are saddened that we cannot all be back together in the normal way as yet but as always our priority has to be the safety of the children, staff and wider school community.

Yours sincerely,

J Wasyliw

(Head teacher)



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