

*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling everyone to flourish and to live life in all its fullness.*

Mrs L Batey – Headteacher



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22nd May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: Government plan to reopen schools

We hope this information finds you well and managing in this current situation.

Everyone at Shankhill CofE Primary School believes that the physical and emotional well-being and safety of our children, families and staff are of great importance when making any decisions about reopening schools. We are keen to reopen to have our children back where they should be, learning and enjoying life with their friends, and as such we are working through the process to allow this to happen as safely and swiftly as possible.

As we are sure you are aware, Schools have been asked to undertake a risk assessment to determine as to whether it is safe for children and staff to return to school, with planning for this starting from the 1st June. We received the official risk assessment documentation from Cumbria Local Authority, which has been agreed with unions, on the evening of Wednesday, 20th May. Alongside this risk assessment, there are numerous documents from the Government to consider. We have provided links for you to view these at the bottom of this letter.

In conjunction with our Local Authority, Brampton Area School Cluster Headteachers, Diocese and Governors, we have spent much time analysing and discussing the current situation and information available to see how we can proceed particularly in ensuring the safety of all of our children and staff. During our process, we have also analysed and discussed information pertinent to our school, including health data for our locality; government updates; Parents' views (83% of our school will not return until September); Staff availability and union advice.

We are currently working through these documents and are planning for reopening as soon as it is safe and possible to do so. Our plans may be determined and amended further following the Government's announcement on Thursday 28th May and the review of the Critical Workers list due before June 1st.

Given the facts, our current plans are that we will undertake the following careful steps to re-open school when the time is right. We have a timeline for each phase of reopening:

Phase 1 – week commencing 1st June 2020:

1. Continue to provide home learning and support for families at home;
2. Finalise the Local Authority official Risk Assessment and discuss this with Governors, Staff and Unions to ensure it is completed to their satisfaction and signed.
3. Ensure all Health and Safety (HSE) checks are finalised and the school is ready and fully operational for reopening.
4. Provide full staff induction and training, alongside time to set up the school for reopening.
5. Inform parents of our plan for reopening, including an offer for places following the Government's order of priority:
 - Initially for children of Critical Workers and those who are vulnerable;
 - Children from the following year groups: Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery;
 - Children from Year 2, 3, 4 and 5.

"This school continues to be good... maintains good quality education... pupils gain a sense of achievement from their lessons... they display excellent attitudes towards their learning... behaviour in lessons and around school is impeccable... Staff are welcoming and inclusive... strong Christian values are promoted well... (results) well above that of other schools nationally" Ofsted 2019

Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View 2018



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Phase 2 – week commencing 8th June 2020:

1. Open for children of Critical Workers and those who are vulnerable, possibly on a reduced timetable depending on risk assessment outcomes and staff availability;
2. Review all Risk Assessments, plans and routines to ensure we have social distancing, health and safety and other procedures correct and running smoothly;
3. Inform parents of our updated plan for reopening, including an offer for places following the Government's order of priority:
 - Children from the following year groups: Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery;
 - Children from Year 2, 3, 4 and 5.
4. We will continue to provide home learning and support for families at home;
5. We will provide home learning tasks for children who attend school.

Phase 3 – week commencing 15th June 2020:

1. Open school for the next group of children;
2. Review all Risk Assessments, plans and routines to ensure we have social distancing, health and safety and other procedures correct and running smoothly;
3. Inform parents of our updated plan for reopening, including an offer for places following the Government's order of priority:
 - Children from Year 2, 3, 4 and 5.
4. We will continue to provide home learning and support for families at home;
5. We will provide home learning tasks for children who attend school.

At all times we will be reviewing the advice from the Government, data in Cumbria and reviewing the risks.

Please be in no doubt that **Shankhill School wants to provide an education for your children and will open as soon as we can**. I hope that you have felt supported at home with the work we have been providing, the phone calls, as well as hopefully making you smile through our website and Facebook posts. Your co-operation and engagement has been wonderful and we thank you all for the amazing job that you are doing; we have a very supportive community and sincerely hope that this continues.

As we move forward, some of you will support us wholeheartedly and some of you will be disappointed and perhaps even a little frustrated. Our staff and Governors can only do what we can humanly do with such enormous decisions resting on our shoulders. These decisions have always been and will continue to be based on facts, discussion with relevant stakeholders, the Local Authority, and most importantly, thorough assessment of risks.

Our approach is very much in-line with other primary schools from across the Carlisle and Brampton area, who are also currently organising the move away from 'Hub' Schools back to provision on their own sites; in all cases the pupils who were eligible for childcare in the Hub Schools are the first priority.

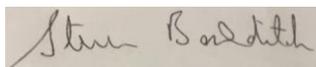
Whilst the decision taken is very much a Shankhill School decision, it is a strategy also being adopted by 14 other schools from across the Brampton Area Schools Association (BASC). That said, the approach and dates to start the reopening process will differ from school to school. Please be aware that the year groups which are being invited back first may differ in each individual school, based upon thorough risk assessments and local planning arrangements.

At this moment in time, a gradual and thoughtful re-opening is required with time to test each of the systems we put in place. We will keep you updated on a regular basis, particularly if anything changes.

Yours sincerely



Lynnsey Batey
Head Teacher



Steven Bowditch
Chair of Governors

Government advice documents:

- 1) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885631/Overview_of_scientific_advice_and_information_on_coronavirus_COVID19.pdf
- 2) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- 3) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>
- 4) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885631/Overview_of_scientific_advice_and_information_on_coronavirus_COVID19.pdf
- 5) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885631/Overview_of_scientific_advice_and_information_on_coronavirus_COVID19.pdf