



St Leonard's C.E. Primary School

"Nurturing Faith and Inspiring Success"

Southwark Diocesan
Board of Education
Multi-Academy Trust



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Headteacher: Mr Simon Jackson BAQTS (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Laura Akhtar BA(Hons) PGCE

29th May 2020

School Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

Given the events of the past week, it was no surprise that, yesterday, the Prime Minister confirmed his desire to see schools opening to more pupils based on his claim that the government's *five tests* had been met.

Yesterday, I met with head teachers from nine other local schools. Not one amongst us believed that the government's expectations were either appropriate or realistic. Not one. As such, none of our schools are able to implement the government's guidance in full from next week. All of our schools are different and we are all focused on trying to do what is best for our individual settings. The fact that this guidance was updated 41 times in one week indicates just how poorly thought out the DfE strategy is. I felt bad enough last week amending our start date from the 1st to the 2nd of June. Now imagine the impact of me asking you to change your plans 41 times in a week and you'll have some idea of what the situation has required of schools. However, I am now in a position to confirm **the school's intended approach from Tuesday 2nd June until Friday 12th June.**

As you are no doubt aware, the government are asking for provision to be made for specific small groups of children and children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6. Outlined below is the school's position for each of these groups beginning next Tuesday. **School is not open to pupils on Monday.**

Children of Key Workers & Other Invited Individuals

This group will be isolated on the upper floor of the main building in class 2S. **Children are to arrive between 08:45 – 09:00 using Gate 1. They must be collected at 3:00pm.**

Children in Nursery & Reception

There will not be any school-based provision for children in Nursery or Reception at this time. It is vital that children in Early Years enjoy coming to school and are able to actively engage in a play-based curriculum involving lots of interaction with their peers. This is fundamentally impossible based on the government's guidance. Trying to ensure that a three or four year-old holds their position at a table with limited resources in an environment which has been changed from one with which they are familiar, is not only ludicrous, it potentially damages their view of school. Please be reassured that we will be considering very carefully how we can best reintegrate our youngest children into school, whenever that may be. Our decision will be based on their well-being and education alone. In the meantime, online learning will continue to be provided.

Class 1H

Children are to arrive via Gate 1 at 08:45 and are to be collected at 3:00pm.

Class 1P

Children are to arrive via Gate 1 at 09:00 and are to be collected at 3:15pm

Class 6B

Children are to arrive via Gate 2 at 09:00 and will be dismissed via Gate 3 at 3:20pm



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Control Measures

The school has undertaken a full risk assessment which has been shared with the multi academy trust and the unions. This assessment will be reviewed on at least a fortnightly basis. The following measures are key for parents to note and will be enforced in an attempt to minimise the risk for everyone:

- Children need to wear clean clothes every day. Uniform, though ideal, will not be strictly enforced
- Parents of children in Year 1 will be allowed access via Gate 1 onto the playground to drop off and collect their child. However, they will not be allowed access to the classroom entrances. Messages for teachers may be left via the no-reply email address or via a telephone call to the school office between 8:00am – 4:00pm
- Parents of children in Year 6 will not be allowed on site in the mornings but may wait in the car park at Gate 3 in the afternoons from 3:15pm
- Each class will have separate toilet facilities, playtimes and lunchtimes
- Each class will have separate travel zones and routes within the school building
- Additional cleaning will be taking place within classrooms and dining surfaces will be cleaned between sittings
- Parents will be allowed to make personal queries to the office via Gate 2 **after** 09:15 each morning and until 3:00pm. Queries at all other times must be made by telephone or email

In the event of a confirmed coronavirus case

Should anyone within the school test positive for coronavirus, we will follow a strict procedure and everyone within our community will be informed on receiving confirmation. The school will operate with total transparency.

Your decision

The decision to send in your child or not is completely yours to make. Based on our recent survey, it would seem that the majority of parents share our deep reservations about the wisdom of opening such provision.

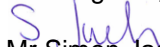
I am neither a medic nor a scientist so I won't comment on the risk factor. However, as a teacher with 27 years' experience, any benefit on academic progress is going to be limited, especially as there will not be new content taught in the remaining weeks. As for emotional and social well-being, primary children being expected to work in controlled isolation from their peers will not support this.

Finally, the government's *bubble* strategy works on the premise that a school has no siblings that live in the same home and that there is no mixing of children when outside of school, such as when you visit the park.

Should you send your child into school, we will of course be delighted to see them. Should you decide to keep your child at home, I would completely understand. You will not be fined. I would ask that you visit <https://www.thenational.academy/> to access online learning until Friday 12th June before we carry out our next review.

Finally, I continue to wish you all well and I'd particularly like to thank those of you who've emailed the school to offer your support. I have really appreciated it.

Kind regards,


Mr Simon Jackson
Head Teacher



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