

Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know we were looking forward to seeing more of you on 15th June, however, Sefton let us know yesterday afternoon that they were recommending that we delay opening for another week and open on 22nd June.

I am sure many of you have had concerns regarding sending children back into school and if it safe to do so. I can assure you all that St. Oswald's have put into place all the measures we can to keep all children and staff safe, following all the DfE guidance. We are ready to open on Monday but we are following Sefton's recommendation as this is a local decision for local schools in Sefton, we feel would not be supported by Sefton if we choose to open earlier.

Like many of you I am frustrated with these decisions and cannot understand the reasoning behind it and I can only apologise for the late decision making on Sefton's part – we do pass on all information as soon as we have it.

The teachers have prepared video clips of what the school now looks like and arrangements for coming into school so that the children know what to expect. These can be viewed on the school's twitter and the class pages on the school website.

All those of you who have expressed an interest for your child coming back to school will have received a letter with detailed guidance for your child. Please DO NOT send your child to school until you have contacted us a week in advance.

Online Safety

We have been informed about a gaming app/ website by some of our pupils and their parents, who have raised concerns about unkind nasty comments being made by other children. The site is also open to strangers who are able to talk to them on line through this site. The gaming app is called ROBLOX and looks like a LEGO game. These are the main concerns:

- There is a messaging facility as part of the game; which is open to the public. On the app there is no way to screen contacts or disable the messages. Children can block people but bearing in mind ROBLOX claim to have over 30 million users children have no way of knowing who it is they're talking to.
- It is open to unkind comments being made and groups forming against an individual – ultimately on-line bullying.
- It claims to be an age 13+ site but you do not need to prove your date of birth and it defaults as an older birthdate.
- The app purchasing seems not to need to validate card details and seemingly children can buy in app purchases and charge these to the mobile phone bill if playing using mobile data.

It is important to keep children safe online. If you give permission for your children to use a messaging platform ensure they do not use their real name or photograph. Use a unrelated nickname and choose an avatar to protect your identify. Also ensure that children do not share details of their location online and refrain from sharing if they are alone or if adults are out. Remember anything shared online becomes your digital foot print. Inappropriate comments can lead to serious consequences. On-line bullying should be discouraged and parents need to be aware of what their child is saying to other pupils and discussing the consequences of bullying on the victim – I am sure no parent would want their child to be a victim of this.

Please use <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/app-reviews> which reviews apps and

games to help you make an informed choice. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact school.

Competitions

Lots of Competitions to enter at home – some fun activities to keep you all busy – please see below:

National Book Token Design Competition

National book tokens have launched a competition with prizes of up to £350/€350 will be allocated as personalised National Book Tokens gift cards in up to 35 x £10/€10 denominations, one for each child in class. Each personalised National Book Tokens gift card will feature the winning child's design. Only one personalised design will be awarded per winning school."

How to enter:

All entries should be produced on A4 paper using the template. Complete the entry form below to see where to email your scanned template. (If you do not have access to a printer and/or scanner, you can take a photo of the artwork and use **this editable form** instead). The competition is open from Wednesday 6th May and the **closing date for entries is Sunday 28th June 2020.**

National Book Tokens will pick one winner each week until the competition closes. The winners will be featured on nationalbooktokens.com and our social media channels, and their designs will be printed onto gift cards for each of their classmates when schools reopen. There is also a chance for the school to win £5000.

Handwashing Competition

With children at home, Medicspot has launched a new home challenge for children to learn about washing their hands in a fun and creative way. The company are asking primary school children to share their creative ideas to help encourage frequent hand washing. A few ideas include making a poster, filming a video, recording a song, doing a science experiment or writing a poem about handwashing.

The top entry will win £500 for their primary school and 10 runner-ups will receive £100 for their primary school. Every child who completes the challenge will also receive a printable certificate. More information can be found at www.medicspot.co.uk/handwash

Drawing Competition "My Caring Hero" (for Children aged 7-10)

To celebrate Patient Participation Group Awareness Week 2020, N.A.P.P. is holding a Children's Drawing Competition on the theme "My caring hero". We are looking for artwork that celebrates our health and care heroes and their different jobs that give us a healthy and happy life. Competition ends 10 July 2020.

The links for the flyer and rules are below.

<https://www.napp.org.uk/NAPP%20drawing%20competition%20flyer.pdf>

<https://www.napp.org.uk/NAPP%20Competition%20Rules%20Final%20v02-06-20.pdf>

Children and Young People's Questionnaire, Sefton Educational Psychologists

In order to help our staff better understand the experiences of our children and young people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Sefton Educational Psychologists have created a questionnaire to gather the views and opinions of children and young people about their return to school.

Sefton Educational Psychologists are looking for children and young people throughout Sefton to share their views using this questionnaire. Parent support may be required for younger children.

Thanks

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJ7Hommvw6i_NY7e8XKwlcAEg5fHiY4r2YrVRHjdPZquu2BA/viewform

Preparation for a school return 22nd June 2020

Organisation:

The following children will be permitted, though not obliged to attend school after half term on the following dates:

From 22nd June

- Children in Reception; (two days only – 22nd and 23rd)
- Children in Year 1; (Monday – Thursday)
- Children in Year 6; (Monday – Thursday)
- Key workers children and vulnerable (Monday – Thursday)

From 24th June

- Children in Nursery classes; (two days only 24th & 25th)

Please note – SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL ON FRIDAYS FOR DEEP CLEAN AS PER SEFTON'S GUIDANCE.

Lunch times:

In order to minimise the risk further, packed lunches must be brought into school in **disposable bags**. Children on hot dinners and entitled to free school meals will be provided for as per usual with social distancing seating in place in the school hall.

Lunch times will be staggered and a break outside afterwards.

As numbers increase we will have to re-plan teams, work spaces and lunchtime provision in accordance with social distancing measures and numbers of children.

It is imperative you contact school before sending your child to school, we will give you a start date after we have planned for them. If they are not planned for and not on the register we will not allow them onto the school site.

Classroom Organisation:

In classes from years 1 – 6, children will be expected to remain seated throughout most of the day in the classroom. Desks will be spaced out in accordance with 2m social distancing. In Early Years zones for restricted numbers of children, will be laid out, **however, it will not be possible to maintain 2m distance between each child**. It is recommended that staff approach children from behind them to reduce the risk of particle transmission.

Staff are encouraged to remain standing when speaking to children to prevent their faces being close to children's faces.

Pupils with 1:1 support will continue to be provided that support but a physical barrier may need to be placed between them in the form of desk spaces.

Toilets:

A system of one-in, one-out will operate with the toilets and all toilet cubicles will be numbered which matches each child's number. A member of staff will escort the child to the bathroom and wait outside. This will signify to other teams using the same toilets that these toilets are out of use until such time as no member of staff is standing outside. We are fortunate to have toilets in Nursery between year 1 and Reception class, in Year 2 and separate girls and boys toilets for the juniors.

Provision of education:

At this point, our priority is to allow children to resume schooling safely. Staff will use their best endeavours to ensure that children are educated at a level appropriate to their needs. There will be no expectation for staff to assess work at this stage and no expectation for end of year reports this year. There will be no after school clubs for the remainder of this year.

Staff hours:

Staff are required to be in school 15 minutes before the start of their 'team's' arrival time. Staff may leave the premises as soon as the last child from their team has been collected and they have prepared for the following day.

Collection and drop-off of children:

It is expected that all children are brought to school and collected by **1 adult only** (every effort should be made to keep the same adult to keep the number of people accessing school to a minimum) at their designated time. It is imperative that family members then leave the site as soon as their child is safely in school to facilitate safe social distancing. All adults waiting outside school must keep a safe 2 m distance away from each other, markings have been laid inside the school grounds for this but not on public pathways outside of school. All classes will be issued letters prior to returning after half term.

Adhering to the DfE Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

This is a brief list of the measures we will put into place for your child's return to school.

- 4 day week - closed Friday
- Small groups - Maximum 15 (at the moment we have no more than 10.)
- Classes set up with desks at least 2m apart and tray of own resources provided.
- Children may not be with own teacher or in own classroom.
- Children may not be with friends.
- Groups cannot mix.
- Staggered starts, playtimes, lunchtimes and finishes.
- Separate entrances and exits.
- Doors wedged open where possible to avoid touching handles.
- Teaching same content as our home-learning.
- Toilets will be numbered and you child will be given a number to use so there is as few as possible using the same facilities.
- School surfaces cleaned daily and deep cleaned on Fridays.
- Letters will be provided for each class so they know what time to come to school, where to enter, who they will be working with etc.
- Social distancing and hand washing will be of the utmost importance and staff will continue to remind pupils as often as possible.

Telephone Support Line

A telephone support line is available to anyone **aged 16+**, therefore although this is not applicable to many of our pupils, parents may benefit from this support, for those who are experiencing stress, worry, and/or low mood as a result of the Covid-19 situation.

We have attached two information posters about the support line. The support line is staffed by the Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and is available 8.00am to 8.00pm every day; providing:

- A listening ear.
- A chance to share how you're feeling.
- It can offer information, self-help materials and signposting toward other helpful services and organisations.

Please note this is not an emergency line, if someone is in need of urgent support they should ring the 24/7 urgent mental health support line on 0151 296 7200.

Nursery Class Places for September

Do you have a young child aged 2 who will be due to start Nursery next year? We have places available for our Nursery class for September for 15 hours and also 30 hour provision. We are still accepting applications for Nursery places in the next academic year. These can be sent to you electronically and once completed should be brought into school. We also need to see your child's birth certificate when you bring in the application.

Please make sure you apply as soon as possible to get the sessions that you want as 30 hours provision and morning slots are usually in high demand. Forms can also be downloaded at <http://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com/page/key-information/30511>

RM Easimaths Disconnection

Please note that we are no longer subscribing to RM maths and the connection will be disconnected 14th June 2020.

Food Bank

If you know of anyone in need of food bank support St. Oswald's Church is open on Thursdays: 11.00am until 2.00pm. Rev'd Debbie Statter has food vouchers that she can issue so please do get in touch with her. The phone number and contact details are on their website.

Christian Values

We would like to reflect on the value of 'Compassion' now the lockdown is beginning to ease. I am sure we are now realising how much our community means to us 'Compassion' and

'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone. I would like to ask everyone to think about their actions and what they say to others – what the effect on that person maybe.

The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not patronizing. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others.

Christians have always had to wrestle with the problem of how a loving God could allow there to be evil and suffering in the world. There is no simple answer to this but we make the first step towards understanding when we grasp the idea that God the Father is not passively observing the suffering of the world from the outside. God fully identified with human suffering in the life and death of Jesus and continues to work to transform the sufferings of the world through the work of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.



This is our school
Let peace dwell here
Let peace begin with me
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of one another
Love of humankind
Love of life itself
And love of God
Let us remember
That as many hands build a house
So Many hearts make a school.
Amen



Take care everyone, stay safe and hopefully we will see you all soon. Keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E. Murtagh
Headteacher