



**WESTGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Striving for Excellence • Caring for Children



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our short online surveys, adding your voice to the planning we are currently undertaking towards the possible wider reopening of school from Monday 1st June. You will appreciate what a complex task this is. This week I have met online with head teachers from our Family of Schools, and with head teachers, local authority officers and city councillors from across Leeds, to discuss the many issues to be addressed. On Monday evening and again yesterday evening, the government issued guidance for schools. The Health & Safety team and Leeds City Council are currently working on a risk assessment template and I expect to be able to work through that next week, when it becomes available. I am also consulting and working with our staff team. I hope to be able to share our completed plans with you at some point next week, along with an FAQ document to address some anticipated questions about what we are safely able to offer.

The Family of Schools also discussed the coming fortnight as we approach 1st June. We have all agreed that the following steps are the most appropriate for our schools:

- Hub-based childcare for vulnerable and critical keyworker children will cease at the end of next week (Friday 22nd May).
- During half term, we will be providing childcare for critical keyworker children only, at Westgate, from Monday 25th May (the bank holiday) until Wednesday 27th May.
- School will be closed to all pupils on Thursday 28th & Friday 29th May, to accommodate final preparations to make both buildings ready for possible wider opening as of 1st June.
- If we are not directed to open as outlined on 1st June, based on the scientific indicators, or we judge we cannot do so safely, we will continue to provide childcare for vulnerable and critical keyworker children at Westgate from that point until we are able to safely reopen more widely.
- We reserve the right to refuse access to childcare for vulnerable and critical keyworker children if demand outstrips the number of places we can safely offer. In these circumstances, we would prioritise places based on criteria agreed between the Family of Schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at St Joseph's for the incredible welcome we have been given at their school over the last half term, and to express my gratitude to everyone in our three schools (Westgate, All Saints and St Joseph's) for their teamwork, support and care for each other's pupils at the hub.

I will write to you again next week when I am able to share detailed plans for the next phase. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Helen Carpenter
Head teacher