



**An Daras Trust**  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Wider Re-opening Update**

Today Gavin Williamson, Minister of State for Education, announced that **the plan for all primary school years in England to go back to school before the end of term is to be dropped by the government.**

There had been an aim for all primary pupils to spend four weeks in school before the summer break but it is no longer thought to be feasible and instead schools will be given "flexibility" over whether or not to admit more pupils.

I can confirm that this is not a practical possibility for St Catherine's due to the impossibility of staffing and providing space for pupils in small, socially distanced groups. This is in line with the national picture and advice received from the local authority and teaching unions.

Currently, all our available staff are timetabled to look after a 'bubble' of either the year groups currently eligible or the key workers' children as well as planning, setting and responding to home learning for their classes. We are also currently using 6 out of 8 of our classrooms. Admitting more pupils would mean it would be impossible to meet the Department for Education guidance and our own risk assessments on keeping children and staff safe.

We will continue to provide online learning and support and of course will continue to review and monitor our decisions and provision on a weekly basis.

### **Key worker Group Update**

We are now at a limit for key worker children which means that it would be difficult to safely expand this group.

At this present time, it is **NOT** our intention to remain open in any capacity during the summer holidays.

We will again, review this regularly and keep you informed of any further updates.

Many thanks for your continued support during these challenging times.

*Louise Hussey*

**Executive Headteacher**